The Middlebury Campus

VOL. CXX, No. 16 | MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT, MARCH 10, 2022 | MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM

LOCAL

Professor Jamie McCallum wins Addison County school board election

By EMILY JONES
Sports Editor

Last Tuesday, Middlebury Associate Professor of Sociology Jamie McCallum won a contentious local election, definitively earning his seat — with 1,389 votes against his opponent's 845 — on the Addison Central School District (ASCD) board for the town of Weybridge.

On voting day, residents in the ASCD towns — Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge — took to the polls to enact change on the board, which oversees pre K-12 education for children in the seven member towns.

McCallum ran a joint campaign with Joanna Doria, who has a breadth of experience as a schools activist in Ripton.

Voters endorsed challengers Doria and McCallum over incumbent board members Amy McGlashan and Mary Cullinane. Cullinane, McCallum's next door neighbor, was previously the board Chair and had helped develop a plan to close rural schools.

What McCallum hopes to accomplish on the school board is closely linked to his personal and professional background.

McCallum is an author, teacher and activist, focusing on labor and work issues around the world. His work has won scholarly awards and has appeared in publications such as The Washington Post. McCallum is also an educator, having worked as a teacher in New York and in the San Quentin State Prison before making his way to Middlebury.

While he usually teaches multiple classes during the academic year, McCallum is currently on sabbatical while he works on his latest and soon to be released book, Essential: How the Pandemic Transformed the Long Fight for Worker Justice, and trains to become a certified volunteer firefighter. He lives in Weybridge with his partner, Erin Davis — who occasionally teaches courses in podcasting and audio storytelling at Middlebury — and their two children.

As a father, teacher and author, running for local office was never exactly a part of McCallum's plan. However, as he grew increasingly frustrated with the current school board, McCallum took it upon himself to effect change.

"We needed someone on the board who was going to help it be more accountable and responsible to the communities that the board represents... and a lot of people asked me to do it," McCallum told The Campus.

When people caught wind of McCallum's campaign, some assumed he was incentivized by the fact that his son attends Weybridge Elementary School. While that is certainly relevant to his story, McCallum noted that his motivations primarily lie in resolving "the huge schism between rural schools and Middlebury schools that has been driven by policies that, to some extent, the current board has pursued."

"For the last few years, I've been sitting here watching

Continued on Page 4

STUDENTS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF TENURE-TRACK POSITION FOR PROFESSOR LANA POVITZ

EMMANUEL TAMRAT/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Student organizers gathered at Old Chapel before knocking on administrators' doors, hoping to deliver letters in support of Professor Lana Povitz.

By RILEY BOARD
Editor in Chief

After more than three years at Middlebury, Visiting Assistant Professor of History Lana Povitz may be leaving the college — but not if a group of student organizers has anything to do with it. Povitz, whose partner is also a professor at the college, recently received a tenure-track offer from the University of Montreal. She is hoping that the college will match this offer with a tenure track position through the partner hire process. Current and former students of Povitz's have organized a website, a demonstration and op-ed over the past week in support. Povitz and the student organizers wanted the college to match her other tenure-track offer before Wednesday, March 9, when she was expected to provide an answer to the other university.

Povitz originally came to Middlebury on a one-year visiting contract. This was followed by another one-year contract, then a three-year contract, of which she is currently completing the second year. Because of her status as a visiting professor, she has had to constantly remain on the job market, and recently received the tenure-track offer from Montreal to be their U.S. historian. After receiving word of this offer in late February, Povitz contacted the History Department and Dean of Faculty on Monday, February 21, notifying them of the offer. Povitz's partner Dima Ayoub, assistant professor of Arabic and C.V. Starr Junior Faculty Fellow in International Studies, put in a request to the administration for partner hire, a process by which professors or candidates may seek hiring for their spouses and partners.

Current and former students heard of the situation, and the deadline, and started organizing in support of Povitz.

"This is not the first time [Ayoub] has gone to the administration with this request but we hope that this time, with student support, we will be successful," Povitz said.

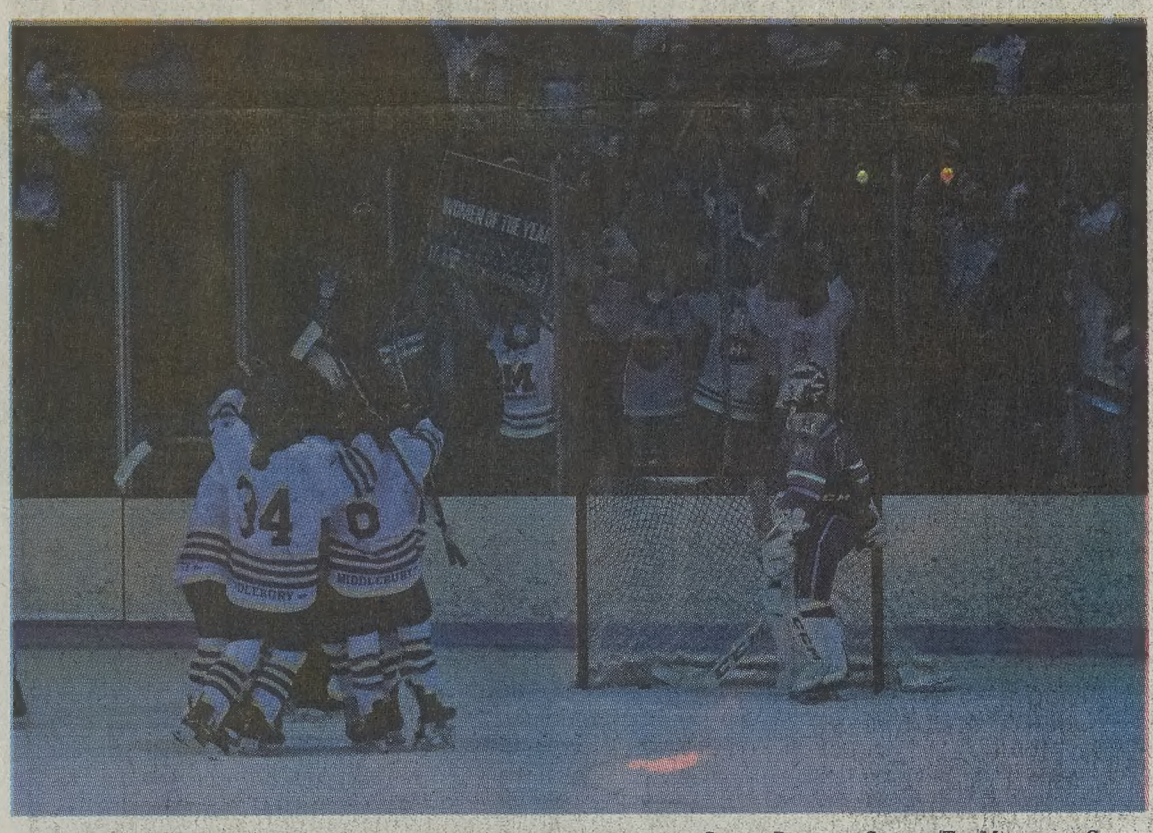
A visiting professorship is less appealing because of the lack of job security, and it also entails other disadvantages, such as the lack of opportunity to take a sabbatical, or paid research leave.

Student support for Povitz has taken many forms over the last week. Kristen Morgenstern '24, an advisee

Continued on Page 2

SPORTS

WOMEN'S HOCKEY CLAIMS 11TH NESCAC TITLE, PUNCHES TICKET TO NATIONAL TOURNAMENT



CHARLIE DEICHMAN-CASWELL/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Fans cheer as Middlebury celebrates a win against Hamilton during the semifinals.

By CHARLES CROUNSE
Sports Editor

As Queen's song "We are the Champions" rang through a packed Kenyon Arena, the Middlebury women's hockey team celebrated their many accomplishments of the season: A 2022 NESCAC title, an undefeated season and revenge for their 2020 NESCAC Championship loss to Amherst.

The Panthers thoroughly bested the Amherst Mammoths from the first faceoff to the final buzzer. On the way to a 2–0 victory, Middlebury outshot Amherst 38–13 and even killed a 6-on-4 power play in the third period. Claudia Vira '23 and Katie Hargrave '22 scored the goals, with Jenna Letterie '22.5, Maddie Leidt '22, Raia Shluter '25 and Sabrina Kim '25 recording assists.

Leidt, who captains the team, was full of praise for her teammates: "This win is a testament to the work every single player has put into this team. We have no magical ingredient — we just outwork teams from start to finish."

The win over Amherst came the day after a thrilling 3–2 victory over the Hamilton Continentals. The Panthers came from behind twice in the game, sealing the win with a go-ahead goal deep in the second period. Vira and Leidt both scored the equalizers while Caroline Cutter '23 scored the winner. Letterie, Hargave, Jordan Hower '24 and Eva Hendrikson '22.5 all provided assists.

Although the win over Amherst was a more decisive victory, the team still worked for the win.

"There was nothing about our win that was easy, we truly had to fight for the full 60 minutes," Hargrave said. "When the buzzer sounded, we all knew we put everything we had into that game."

The win marks Middlebury's 11th NESCAC title since the league first began declaring champions in 2001. The team has also recorded three NCAA championships — the last was in 2006. Since then, the Panthers have advanced to the "Final Four" five times and have made the national final twice.

The Middlebury women's hockey team returns to action on Saturday, March 12, when they host Endicott in the NCAA Quarterfinals. The Panthers are ranked No. 1 headed into the national tournament.

College plans to scale back mask requirements, increases rapid testing

Changes to the mask policy were announced amid a surge in Covid-19 cases on campus

By CHARLIE KEOHANE
Editor at Large

The college will no longer require masking on campus except in classrooms and other designated areas beginning March 18 at 3 p.m., according to an email from administrators sent to students on March 9. Beyond classroom masking, it is up to individual departments to determine whether they will continue to require masks, the email said.

The college has also increased the availability of rapid antigen tests, which they announced they would distribute in early March in an email in late February. Distribution followed a significant uptick in active Covid-19 cases, with more than 200 students testing positive last week.

The email also noted that student PCR testing will no longer be required starting on March 14, although optional PCR testing will still be available for students and employees.

The college announced in an earlier email sent to students on Feb. 18 that testing will eventually shift away from surveillance PCR testing in the general student body towards a combination of antigen and PCR testing, but announced required PCR testing through at least this week.

The CDC recently called for loosening mask restrictions and testing requirements in many areas with low or medium community levels of Covid-19, a metric determined by case rates and hospital capacity. As of the CDC's most recent update, Addison County remains at medium levels, while surrounding counties are considered to be at medium or high level.

Other NESCAC schools, including Williams and Colby, have recently loosened their mask restrictions in accordance with the new CDC guidelines. Harvard University removed its indoor mask mandate this week amid the school's largest Covid-19 case surge.

The Covid-19 dashboard — most recently updated on March 8 — was showing 135 total active cases as of press time. An update on March 3 revealed 222 new cases on campus, which is the largest number of consecutive cases reported at the college.

Per Alexander '24.5 recently tested positive for Covid-19 and relocated to isolation housing at the Bread Loaf campus to complete his isolation since he has a roommate. Alexander noted that he appreciates the increased availability of rapid tests.

"I think it's a really good way to get results back to people much quicker, especially if you have symptoms," Alexander said. "It's just nice to know right away so you can make plans."

The college announced in late February that it had secured over 30,000 rapid antigen tests, which have been used to test symptomatic students in recent weeks. The antigen tests are now being distributed to the general student body in dining halls and at on-campus testing sites. Students were required to receive a PCR test on March 7 or 9 and were supplied with two self-test kits as the school shifts to a more rapid antigen focused testing program for the spring.

NEWS

Students with Covid-19 feeling overwhelmed during record case numbers
By JACK McGUIRE

Josh Harkins '25 was taking a seat in Proctor Dining Hall when he suddenly saw an alarming email notification...

▶PAGE 2

LOCAL

Meg Fearey '21.5 turns artistic passion into business
By BLAISE SIEFER

Small town democracy: Middlebury town meeting day
By AUDREY PEIKER

▶ PAGE 4

OPINIONS

Calling on community
By SHEILA CAMACHO

The persistence of orientalism in Middlebury Arabic language education
By MADELEINE GALLOP

▶ PAGE 6

ARTS & CULTURE

Real Critic: Drive My Car
By JOSHUA GLUCKSMAN

Actors from the London stage do more with less
By OLIVIA MUELLER, ACADIA KLEPEIS, ELIZA KING FREEDMAN

▶ PAGE 8

SPORTS

Bradshaw Underhill '25 continues family legacy on Middlebury ski team
By DAN URCHUK

Running from Rowling: Quidditch seeks a new name
By OWEN PARK

▶ PAGE 10

STUDENTS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF TENURE-TRACK POSITION FOR PROFESSOR LANA POVITZ

Continued from Page 1

Emmanuel Tamrat/The Middlebury Campus

Connor Wertz '22 (right), one of the students demonstrating in Old Chapel, addresses Provost Jeff Cason (left) in his office.

of Povitz's, sent an email to all of the professor's former students and all history majors and minors on Friday, February 25, alerting them to the situation and asking students to submit testimonials in support of Povitz by "shar[ing] the ways that Professor Povitz has touched your life and has been an essential asset of the Middlebury community in the form of a letter."

"As you have all taken courses with her in the past, you know how much she means to our community, and losing her would be a great disservice to the progress of this institution," Morgenstern wrote in the email.

By the following Tuesday, March 1, a website was launched sharing the more than 50 letters submitted by students, alongside more formal letters, including one from the Jewish community at Middlebury and another from Rabbi Danielle Stillman.

The student testimonials are divided into different categories of Povitz's influence: Professor Povtiz's Courses, History Department and Advising, Building Jewish Community and Supporting Queer Students.

"I know my positive experience from Professor Povitz's classrooms is not unique. Any student who takes one of her classes leaves with a greater understanding of marginalized histories and in my case, a greater sense of Middlebury community," one testimonial reads.

"Professor Povitz has been one of my most impactful professors at Middlebury," reads another. One student even describes choosing to come to Middlebury after sitting in on one of Povitz's classes during preview days.

On Thursday, March 3, an op-ed addressed to President Laurie Patton and written by current and former students Cara Levine '20, Eloise Berdahl-Baldwin '21.5, Morgenstern, Remi Welbel '22.5 and Yardena Gerwin '22.5 was published in The Campus.

"The time is now for Middlebury to recognize the precious investment Professor Povitz has made in us by fully investing in her. President Patton, you have an opportunity to leave a tremendous legacy here at Middlebury by supporting the student-led initiative to keep Professor Povitz," it reads.

The student organizers, supporters and op-ed authors all stress Povitz's value to the course offerings available at the college.

"Lana teaches classes about social movement history, and the legacies of resistance, and that work should not only fall on faculty of color," Cara Levine '20, a former student of Povitz's and an author of the op-ed, said. "She's a white person teaching Black feminism. That's valuable, because [the college] shouldn't have to rely only on their faculty of color to teach courses that critically engage with the history of race and resistance in this country."

The op-ed also argues for Povitz's value to the Jewish community on campus, citing an informal Jewish text study group she oversaw and her involvement in Hillel.

Morgenstern emphasized how important Povtiz's presence at the college is for queer students, Jewish students and others. "Her being here is so meaningful," she said.

Povitz is unlikely to remain at Middlebury without a tenure track offer, a faculty position that offers long-term job stability. According to Povitz, the History Department applied for a five-year visiting position for her back in January, before the Montreal offer. That application, she said, is still pending in the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC), a group of elected faculty members who make staffing recommendations to the Provost, which are typically adopted. However, receiving a tenure track offer from another institution would likely draw her away from Middlebury. Povitz said that she loves teaching, but is also passionate about research and working on her current book project, a biography of feminist activist and writer Shulamith Firestone. "As a contingent faculty member, I don't have the same opportunities as my colleagues to devote time to scholarship," Povitz said.

A central issue of the student campaign is a lack of a partner hire offer. Because of Middlebury's remote location and the absence of nearby academic institutions, and because academics are often married to other academics, a lack of spousal or partner hire can be a dealbreaker for prospective faculty. Povitz's partner Ayoub is a woman of color, and one goal of partner hiring is to retain faculty of color, something the college has both historically and recently struggled to do.

"It's a bigger ask from the school for someone to come to this predominantly white state to live in the middle of nowhere when they don't have the people that they love with them," Levine said. "So anything that the college can do to make that easier is really important."

Individual faculty who are making a partner inclusion request will contact the Dean of Faculty, who connects them with the relevant departments to solicit departmental interest in the potential hire, according to Dean of Faculty Sujata Moorti.

There is no official partner hire policy for faculty positions, according to Provost Jeff Cason, nor is there any additional funding for partner hires. "Any decision to approve a partner hire comes out of the regular faculty [full time equivalent] budget," he said.

Cason explained that there will typically be one to three requests for partner-related faculty hire, either for visiting or tenure-track positions, in a year. According to Cason, it is the EAC that receives the partner-related faculty position requests, and makes those recommendations to the Provost, who decides whether or not to accept them, and "considers them in light of curricular needs, institutional priorities and Middlebury's strategic goals," Moorti explained.

Beyond being a general recruitment method, partner hire can also be a tool in diversifying the faculty and staff at Middlebury. In the college's September 2020 "Action Plan for Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" the second strategy listed under Recruitment and Hiring heading in the Faculty and Staff section is, "Explore funding options to support partner hires and post-doctoral residencies," a strategy assigned to the Dean of Faculty office with a 2022–23 implementation timeline. The college Human Resources department hired a partner inclusion specialist, Susan Edwards, just this past February; the listing for the job, before the position had been filled, describes the first responsibility of the role as, "Identify and advocate for academic and non-academic partner employment at the college." Moorti clarified that Edwards will work to make opportunities for partners in the area, but that her role is to share information, not hire partners.

Moorti said that as part of the college's DEI efforts, the college has worked with the EAC over the last two years to offer partners and spouses multi-year visiting positions, tenure-track positions, lab instructor positions, single courses, and winter term and Language Schools teaching opportunities.

David Miranda Hardy, associate professor of Film and Media Culture and a member of the faculty Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, spoke about lack of transparency around the partner hire process, leading faculty to wonder why one partner hire might occur while another doesn't. Miranda Hardy clarified the value of departmental independence in hiring, and prescribed an institution-wide solution to current issues around partner hire: clear transparent policy and the allocation of funds.

"There needs to be an explicit commitment, institutionally, to the recruitment and retention of minoritized faculty. And that means allocating resources," Miranda Hardy said.

Partner hire can be used as a tool for drawing talent to the Middlebury area, but alternatively, a lack of partner hire can prevent professors from accepting jobs at the college. In February 2020, the Geology Department attempted to hire a new standout professor, even going so far as to delay their hiring process while she did fieldwork abroad. However, after weeks of negotiations, the prospective hire declined the offer because the administration was not able to provide a position for her partner, according to an email from Professor of Geology Dave West sent to geology majors at the time.

Student advocates for Povitz have claimed that partner hires have historically only been offered to straight couples. Povitz explained that she has never heard of a queer partner hire during her time at the college, nor spoken to anyone who can cite any examples. When asked whether this is true, Cason said that it would be inappropriate for him to answer because it concerns individual personnel decisions.

However, the lack of transparency around the partner hire process has led to doubt from Povitz and her student advocates about the success of requested partner hires.

"Because the College lacks a clear policy on partner hires, and because partner hires do seem to occur with some regularity, the question arises: Why does it happen for some people and not others? What does it take to be 'worthy'?" Povitz said. "Although the College professes a commitment to retaining faculty of color, it's not clear whether or how that commitment connects to retaining their partners."

History Department Chair Jacob Tropp did not respond to an interview request. Povitz emphasized that the History Department has been supportive during her time at Middlebury, greenlit all of her courses and advocated for her in every way possible. She noted that the department has its own hiring priorities, and it is administrators who have the ultimate power in partner hires and retention of faculty of color.

All requests for faculty positions, including those related to partner hire, the conversion from visiting to tenure track and new faculty, come from departments. The Dean of Faculty can make recommendations, but departments ultimately decide which positions to pursue and request to the EAC. Departmental considerations are governed by factors like enrollment pressures and curricular goals.

The students working to keep Povitz at Middlebury are not unprecedented in their action.

As a student, Jay Saper '13, who taught a winter term course this year, led a successful effort to get Tara Affolter, then a visiting professor in the Education Studies department, a tenure-track position at Middlebury. He, much like Povitz's advocates, created a website with student testimonials and published an op-ed in The Campus.

Saper, however, worked on a much longer timeline. When he discovered during the fall semester that Affolter's three-year visiting professorship would end with the 2011 spring semester, he began efforts to keep her around, including meeting with administrators, then-President Ron Leibowitz, starting the website and publishing the op-ed. Povitz's supporters have had less than two weeks to make their case.

Saper applauded the efforts of current student advocates, and pointed out that we often forget about the role that past student organizing has had on the current state of the college.

"So much we take for granted in the world is the result of community organizing," Saper said. "Middlebury College is no different. Student-led campaigns have always been integral to making our campus community a better place."

After compiling more than 50 letters from students, Morgenstern decided that it would feel more tangible and meaningful to hand in their letters in person. She had already sent a letter by email to the History Department, Moorti, Cason and Patton and received no responses.

"Sending the administration a link to our website, they don't have to look at it, but if we send our letters in person, they have to read them, or at least know that we were there," she said.

The organizers decided that it would be more meaningful if a group delivered the letters, and Morgenstern sent out another email calling on Povitz's former students and history majors to show up to the letter delivery.

On Friday, March 5, a group of more than a dozen students gathered outside of Old Chapel. Morgenstern held packets of the printed testimonials from Povitz's advocates. Morgenstern addressed the gathering of students before heading into Old Chapel.

"Professor Povitz has meant so much to students here," she said.

Joan Vera '22, who has taken three classes with Povitz, was at the demonstration. Vera, who is not a history major, said that Povitz has the ability to reach students across disciplines, and teaches courses on important areas of marginalized histories.

The student organizers entered Old Chapel in search of Vice President for Student Affairs Smita Ruzicka, Moorti, Cason and Patton. In many cases, they were only able to access their administrative assistants, whom they provided with the packets of letters. Many of the administrators were in meetings at the time, owing to a remote convening of the College Board of Advisors, part of the Board of Trustees.

Organizers were able to reach Cason in his office while he was mid-meeting, where they told him about the importance of matching Povtiz's offer. They also asked that the college be more transparent with students about actions and decisions around Povitz's employment.

Morgenstern handed Cason the packet of letters, and told him, "Whether you choose to read them or not, just know that you are hurting the community."

Cason told the students that "a lot is happening in terms of trying to keep Professor Povitz," and said that the college is aware of the deadline for Povtiz's other job offer.

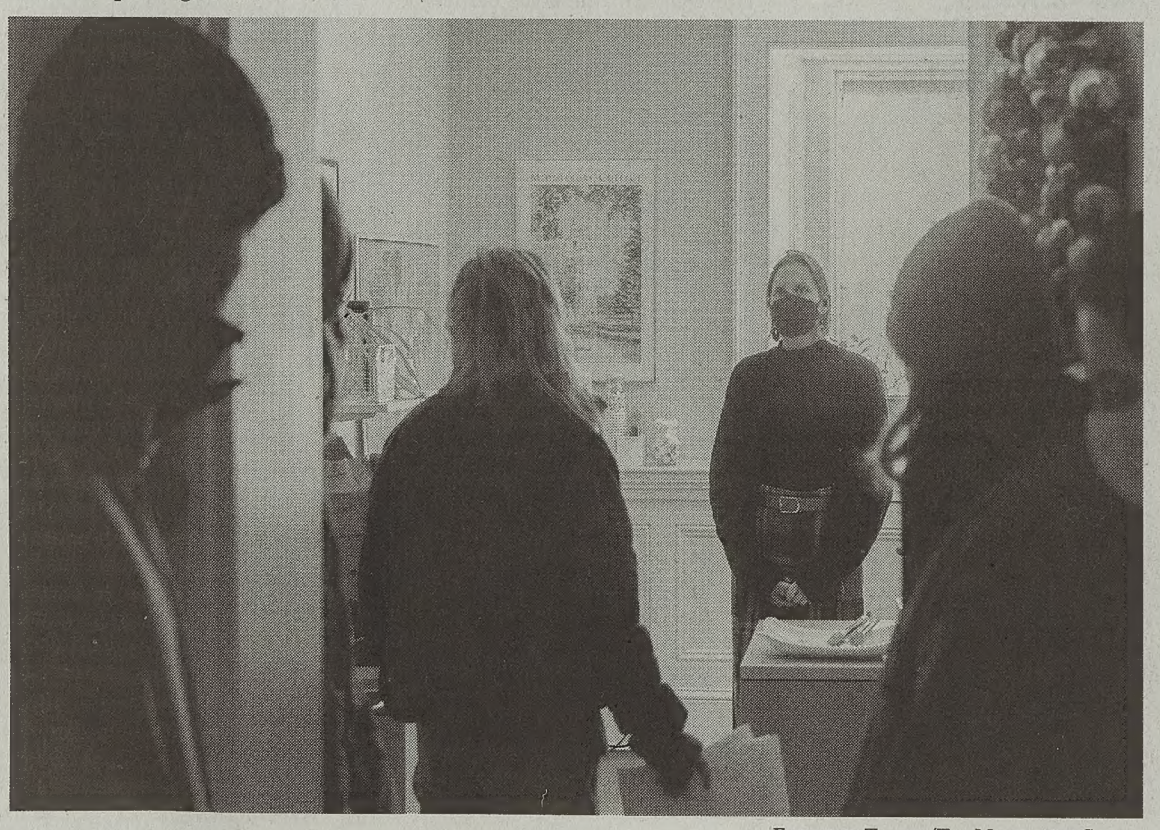
The students also spoke with Executive Assistant to the President Stephanie Neil, who informed them that Patton was in a Trustee meeting and could not see them. The student demonstrators noted that if they are unable to secure a meeting with Patton by the start of the next week, they would return in similar fashion.

After the demonstration, Morgenstern did receive an email from Moorti, agreeing to set up a meeting with herself, Cason and the student organizers.

Throughout this entire process, Povitz maintains her desire to stay at Middlebury and her love for the college's work environment.

"I just want to emphasize how much I adore this job, my students and my colleagues," she said. "And of course my students are so special to me — your curiosity, sense of humor, work ethic, commitment to changing the world for the better and general openness to exploring new ideas gives me a lot of energy. I would really miss everyone if I left."

This article was originally published online on Tuesday, March 8



Emmanuel Tamrat/The Middlebury Campus

Students knocked on administrators' doors, presenting them with letters in support of Professor Lana Povitz.

Seniors, sophomores, and Febs elect new SGA senators

By BEN WAGNER
Staff Writer

SGA held elections for new Feb senators and three special elections — for one sophomore and two senior Senators — from Feb. 24-25. The new Feb senators are Ting Cui '25.5 and Faith Wood '24.5, while Michael Eller '24 stepped into the sophomore senator position, and Joel Machado '22 and Nia Williams '22 filled the senior roles.

SGA held special elections this spring because the former senators resigned, while the Feb elections always occur during the first few weeks of the spring semester.

Ella Du '24, co-director for SGA operations, said that — while low compared to the total size of the constituencies — voter turnout did not significantly differ from her expectations. According to Du, February elections typically have lower turnouts than later in the spring, when there are more elections and more candidates.

Machado noted that he wasn't surprised at the low turnout for his election, given that he and Williams ran unopposed for their positions.

"[W]hat matters is getting people hyped up about the real power that SGA has to inspire change," Machado said. "Maybe we will see a bigger turnout for next year's elections, especially if we can get some demands added onto the ballot."

Wood said that many students seem to believe that SGA does not have much of an impact on student experiences. However, she feels differently.

"Every time I'm at an SGA meeting I feel like I'm with a group of Avengers. They're all like saving the world," she said.

Wood hopes that the student body can get more involved in the work SGA does.

"I think that that's something I'm going to be working on this semester," Wood said. "I want to be more communicative and more transparent with the student body about what we do."

Wood and Cui both expressed a desire for Middlebury to provide more mental health resources for its students. Cui, in a written statement to The Campus, identified therapy dogs as a potential avenue, while Wood voiced concerns about the college's lack of mental health counselors specialized in issues such as the trans experience and trauma.

Machado explained that he ran for Senior Senator — after spending time on the Community Council, Sophomore Committee and SGA cabinet — partially in order to fight for staff wage increases. At his first meeting as a senator on March 1, Machado introduced a resolution to ask the administration to increase student employee base wages to $15 per hour and non-student employee base wages to $20 per hour. The resolution was co-authored by Machado, Williams and SGA President Roni Lezama.

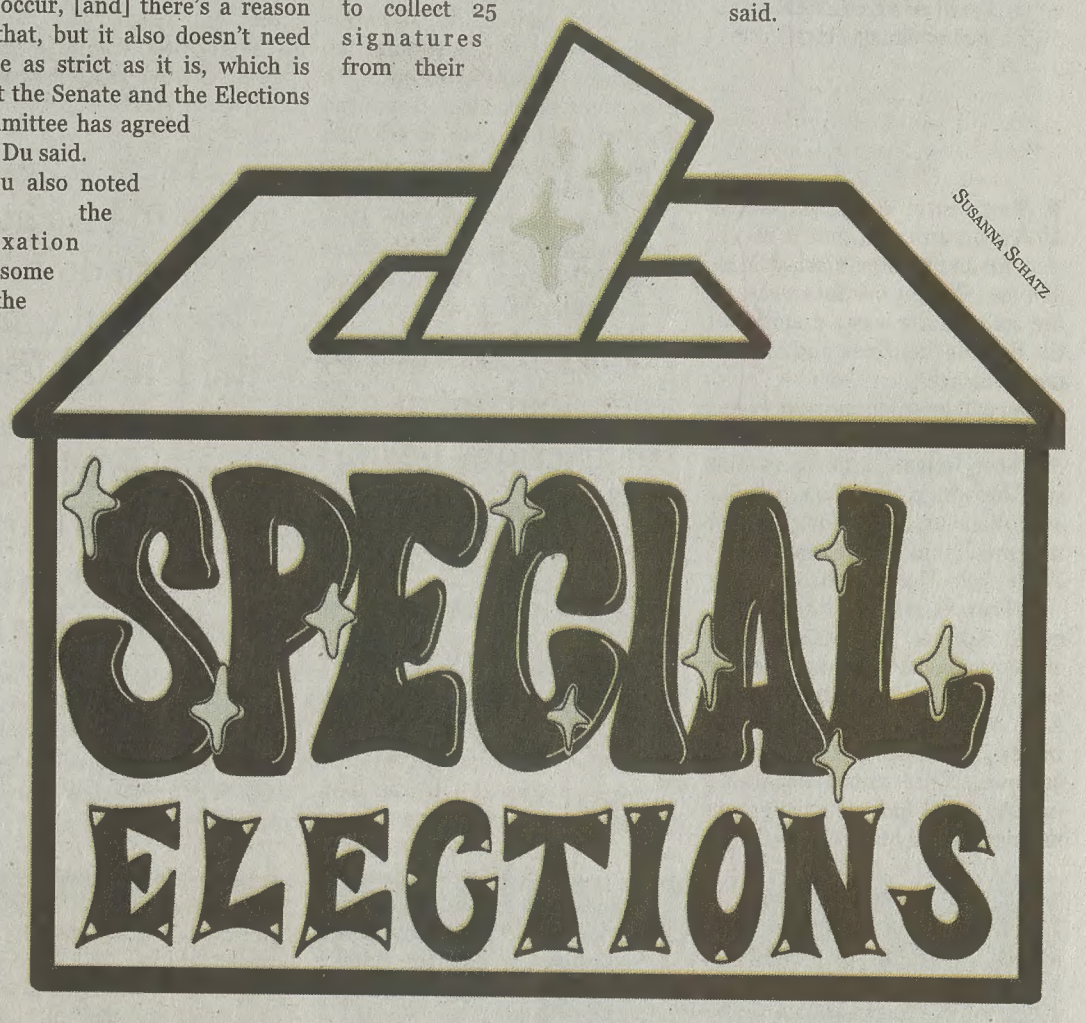
Du noted that the election process was not as regimented and formal as the bylaws lay out.

"There's a lot of rules regarding special elections and vacancies and when appointments to positions can occur, [and] there's a reason for that, but it also doesn't need to be as strict as it is, which is what the Senate and the Elections Committee has agreed on," Du said.

Du also noted that the relaxation of some of the bylaws is intentional. "[Being a senator is] a serious role, but it's also like, the passion and for fun," Du said. "We want whoever wants or is interested in a position to be able to feel comfortable running and applying. So we don't want to make it anxiety-inducing."

For the recent elections, candidates had to collect 25 signatures from their constituency supporting their candidacy, before writing a candidate statement and campaigning for four days. The election was held via Presence.

"I've only known this school for a couple weeks, but I've already fallen in love. Thus, I want to advocate for my fellow febs and address any issues that arise," Cui said.



Susanna Schatz

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

SUN BEAMS OVER THE GOLF COURSE

Amaan Habibulla '25

Students with Covid-19 feeling confused and overwhelmed during record case numbers

By JACK McGUIRE
Contributing Writer

Josh Harkins '25 was taking a seat in Proctor Dining Hall when he suddenly saw an alarming email notification on his phone. "Hello, you are receiving this message because you have tested positive for COVID-19. If you are not currently in your room, please return to your room," the message read.

As of March 9, the college has reported a total of 383 Covid-19 cases so far during the spring semester. Some students who tested positive have reported confusion about isolation protocols as the school responds to an increase in cases and changing CDC guidelines.

During their quarantines, many Middlebury students with Covid-19 have struggled to get food, stay up to date with their classes and interpret the college's expectations for students who test positive.

"At the beginning it does feel very overwhelming when there is lots of information coming at you all at once," said Harkins.

After a student tests positive for Covid-19, they have three isolation options: off-campus housing, isolation housing on or adjacent to campus, or isolating in their current room. In on-campus isolation housing, the college will deliver meals to students.

As case numbers began to rise during the spring semester, however, staff were unable to continue to deliver meals to those isolating in their rooms, with Covid-positive students then having to ask friends to deliver meals to them. For some, this policy created challenges, including the awkwardness of putting those burdens on peers and difficulties for those with dietary restrictions.

Febs in the class of 2025.5, who arrived on campus just a few weeks ago, also found it challenging to get food delivered when they have not fully developed connections across campus.

"I had luckily made some great friends here at Middlebury, but I have to admit it was awkward asking people you have just met to bring you food and do you favors," Max Myers '25.5 said.

The college changed its policy last week, allowing Covid-19 positive students to come to Proctor dining hall at 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. to pick up food.

Students also described the challenges of navigating isolation during the school week.

"It's really annoying not being in class for three days because you miss a lot," Will Tella '25 said.

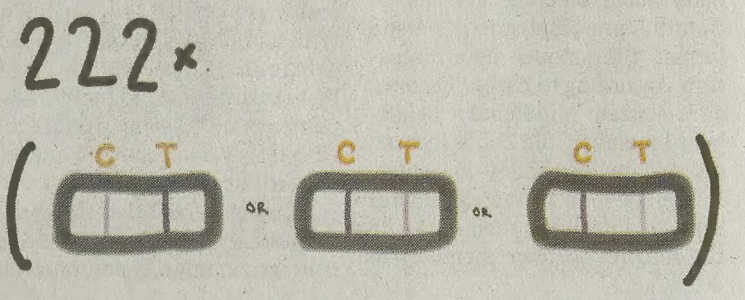
Students with Covid-19 said they have also experienced different levels of support from professors if they have to miss class due to their quarantine. Some professors post Zoom links for students in quarantine and post lecture notes online, while others suggest you get the notes from another student. Other professors have shifted entirely to online instruction until most students are released from isolation.

> "I feel more empathy for the — I am sure overworked — folks who are running the day-to-day operations."

"It was kind of ridiculous that some professors would not support an online option when half the class had Covid," Myers said.

Despite some frustrations, the students interviewed by The Campus still expressed appreciation for the dedication and work college staff are putting in.

"I feel more empathy for the — I am sure overworked — folks who are running the day-to-day operations," Harkins said. "I certainly think the system is being pushed to its limits right now."



Sabrina Templeton

MEG FEAREY '21.5 TURNS ARTISTIC PASSION INTO BUSINESS

By BLAISE SIEFER
Senior Sports Editor

Meg Fearey '21.5 has always been an artist, but it wasn't easy for her to create art at Middlebury. During her four years at the college, she was a member of the field hockey team and studied neuroscience.

But a busy schedule didn't deter Fearey from building and growing MFeareyDesigns, a business that sells drawings, paintings, jewelry and other artistic goods. "I loved it so much that I made time for it," Fearey told The Campus.

MFeareyDesigns allowed Fearey to explore her creative and entrepreneurial spirits. Fearey began selling her products on Etsy, an online marketplace, and in her grandmother's shop in Edgartown, Mass. Since beginning in 2017, her products have grown in quality and quantity, with her Etsy page recently surpassing 100 total sales.

A key aspect of MFeareyDesigns is the customization — Fearey enjoys working with customers to make personalized products. She's also charitable, donating 30% of her proceeds on Etsy to Camp Casco, Leukemia & Lymphoma society and the Boston Children's Hospital -– three organizations that Fearey is connected with.

> Fearey was stuck in her apartment as restrictions began to hit the country, so she began using colored pencils as a creative and stress-relieving outlet.

Fearey has now graduated from Middlebury, but the help she received from the college has not been forgotten. The field hockey team, in particular, was excited to wear her products, especially the jewelry. Other friends and classmates helped Fearey by posting pictures of her products on their Instagram stories and making her graphics for social media.

> "There's not going to be a good time to do it. I was a full time student athlete, volunetering, and a neuroscience major. But I loved it so much that I made time for it".

Fearey also received support from the Innovation Hub, which provided her an office in Old Stone Mill on Weybridge Street and helped her launch a MiddSTART crowdfunding campaign.

During her last month of college, Fearey took the J-term class MiddEntrepreneurs — a course taught by Sam Roach-Gerber and David Bradbury of VCET — which allowed her to hone-in on her business for a month. "Especially at Middlebury, where things move 100 miles per hour, being able to focus on this [was] incredible," Fearey said.

> MFearey Designs allows Fearey to combine her passions for art and giving back— it's the perfect match.

Fearey is currently interviewing for full-time jobs but is excited to continue working on MFeareyDesigns. "As much as I love making the stuff, I do love running the business side. I would love to expand and commit to this a bit more," she said.

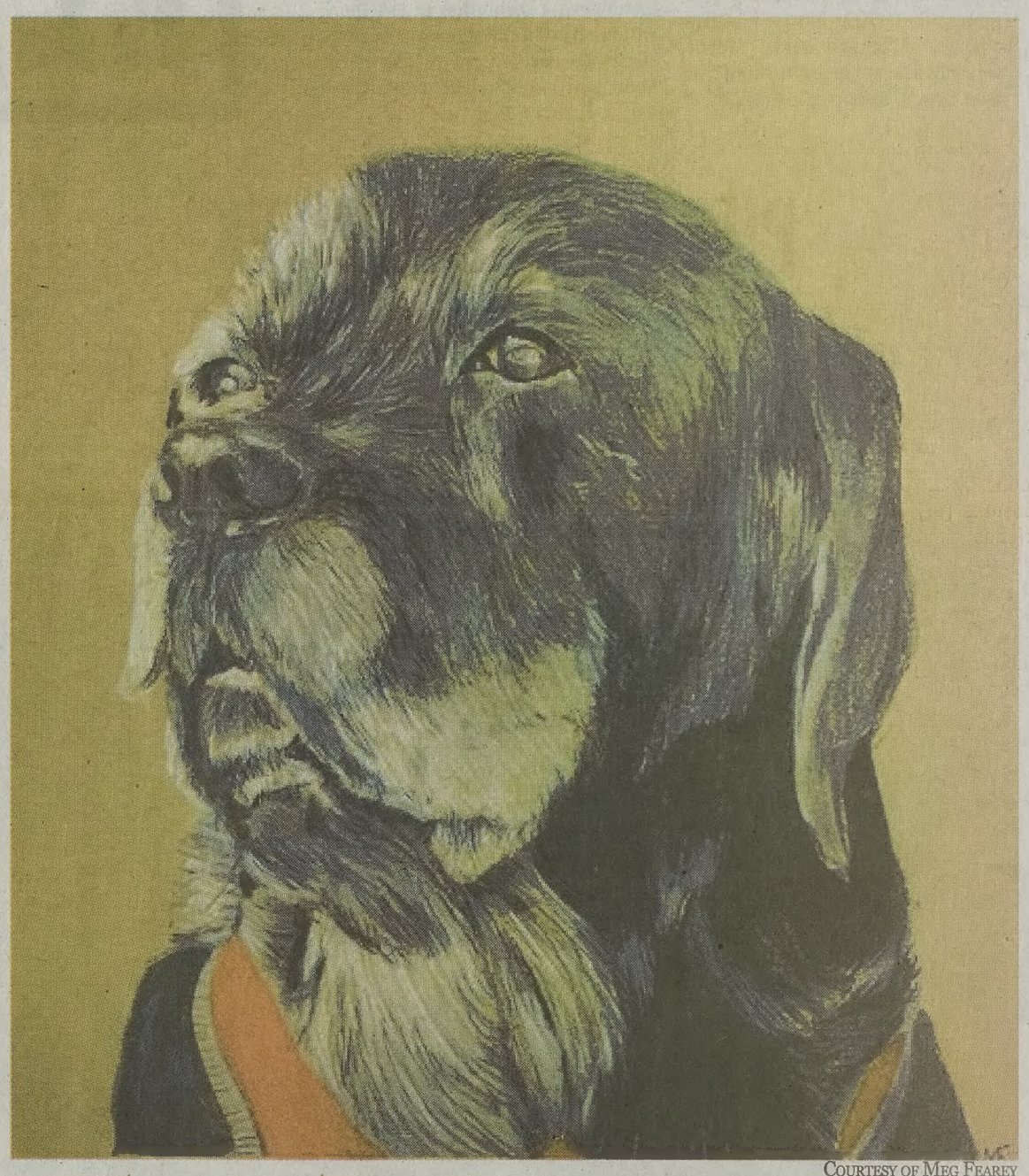
When asked about tips she would give budding student entrepreneurs, Fearey kept it simple: "I was a full time student-athlete, volunteering and a neuroscience major. There's not going to be a good time to do it. I loved it so much that I made time for it."

If you are interested in learning more about MFeareyDesigns, you can check out Fearey's online portfolio or shop on Etsy. You can also follow the business on Instagram and Facebook.

If you are a student entrepreneur looking to connect with other makers at Middlebury, stop by the Innovation Hub for advising, information on entrepreneur-focused classes, or opportunities for workspaces on campus. The Hub offers many resources to students, including mentorship and funding.

Courtesy of Meg Fearey

Meg Fearey '21.5, who graduated from Middlebury in February, is the founder of MFeareyDesigns. Fearey sells artistic products such as sketches, paintings, and jewelry.



Courtesy of Meg Fearey

One of Fearey's colored pencil portraits which she sold.

Small town democracy: Middlebury town meeting day

By AUDREY PIEKER
Contributing Writer

All articles were approved during Middlebury's town meeting day on March 1, with votes cast via secret ballot due to ongoing concerns about Covid-19. The town meeting day was preceded by an informational Zoom meeting on Feb. 28. The preliminary Zoom meeting is a change from the pre-pandemic in-person format with an open floor discussion. According to Esther Thomas, a re-elected Middlebury Selectboard member, the Zoom focused on updates to ballot measures. It also gave all of the candidates time to introduce themselves to the roughly 50 town members in attendance.

Each year on the first Tuesday of March, Vermont residents gather together for their annual town meetings.

According to Brian Carpenter, the Middlebury Selectboard chair, this year's meeting looked a little different. It consisted of an informational Zoom meeting on Monday, Feb. 28, followed by voting via pre-printed secret ballots on Tuesday, March 1.

Carpenter said that the town meeting holds a special place in small-town democracy.

"The majority of Vermonters really appreciate the opportunity to gather to have dialogue and debate in an open forum and to be recognized individually," Carpenter said. "They appreciate that even if they don't go, they have the opportunity to."

Thomas agreed that the chance to interact with neighbors and encourage community are important parts of the annual meeting. "You get to hear out your neighbor in a way, [and] it brings people together," Thomas said. "[It] helps give a sense of community in a way you can't get from a large city."

However, Thomas also noted that the online format presented some challenges. "[People were] disappointed because they love town meeting days and really want the experience of us coming together and being in the same space."

According to the town of Middlebury's website, there were several uncontested elections for local office positions on the ballot. Susan Shashok won the moderator position, while Elizabeth Dow won the lister. Steve Gross and Joe McVeigh won the two available spots for library trustee. Three positions were also open on the selectboard, which were filled by Andy Hooper, Heather J. Seeley and Esther Thomas.

Carpenter said that there were also four budget related items on the agenda, all of which were approved. According to the town website, these included a small 3.9% increase in the estimated tax rate to support the Proposed 2022–23 Annual Budget.

According to the minutes of the meeting, the approved increase will help with various maintenance projects, among other things. Voters also passed a $750 appropriation for Addison Allies Network, an organization working with Addison County migrant farm workers and immigrants.

Tax collection dates were also approved, along with a property tax exemption for the Middlebury Regional Emergency and Medical Services.

"[Town meetings provide] a level of confidence that we are being fiscally responsible while trying to budget for what the town needs," Carpenter said. "[They] provide an opportunity for people to question and clarify."

The last item on the meeting agenda was about open seats on the Addison Central School District School Board. Middlebury had three uncontested openings out of seven total seats. Incumbent James "Chip" Malcolm, Steve Orzech and Brian Bauer won the three seats, according to The Addison County Independent.

School Board seats are voted on district wide, so Middlebury residents also voted in the two contested elections for the Ripton and Weybridge seats. Both seats were won by the challengers — Joanna Doria won Ripton's seat and Jamie McCallum won the Weybridge seat. Several other school-related budget items were approved, according to The Addison Independent.

Professor Jamie McCallum wins Addison County school board election

Continued from Page 1

people talk about closing rural schools without exploring every alternative first," McCallum added. "Serving on the school board is not a glamorous job, but I hope to make an important contribution."

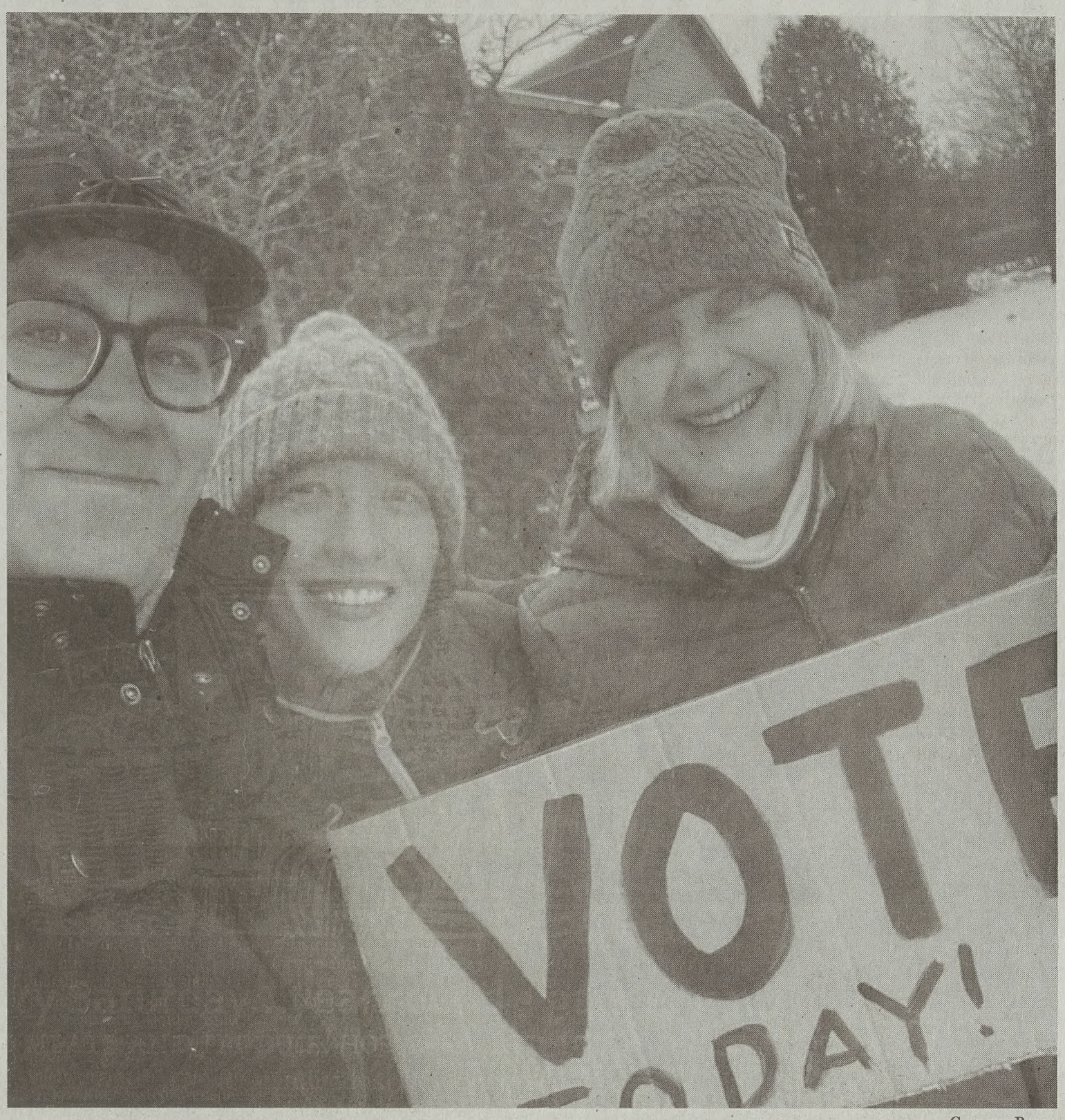
> "For the last few years, I've been sitting here watching people talk about closing rural schools without exploring every alternative first. Serving on the school board is not a glamorous job but I hope to make an important contribution."

McCallum added that his campaign was not solely an effort to save local schools. He also sought to make the board more democratic, transparent and receptive to community input.

While some Middlebury faculty members came out in support of Professor McCallum, he was also met with strong resistance.

Caitlyn Myers of Middlebury's Economics department, for example, wrote a piece on the Middlebury Front Porch Forum arguing that rural schools advocates need to focus on the hard data. She wrote, "It's hard not to empathize with the fear and sorrow surrounding the planned or potential closures [of] our neighbors' and friends' elementary schools, or to feel swayed by emotional appeals to support a 'brave little town'. But... we must face the reconfirmed financial realities of providing an excellent education to every child in our communities."

Myers ended by endorsing the incumbent candidates.



Courtesy Photo

Jamie McCallum (left), Joanna Doria (middle) and Barb Wilson (right) encouraged voters to participate in the recent school board election on March 1.

"The existing hard data has been misinterpreted," McCallum said. "Middlebury residents do not subsidize rural schools." McCallum also added that "emotion is data... the things people feel and hope for are important. If you don't listen to those people, if you don't listen to the anger, you're missing the story."

According to McCallum, while Middlebury faculty were engaged in the discourse of the election, many students remain unaware of local elections such as this one.

"It's easy for students to think of Middlebury or Addison County as essentially the bagel shop, the Co-Op and Haymaker," McCallum noted. "But as soon as you get three miles out of town to Weybridge or out towards the Snow Bowl, things get pretty different. Expanding your circle of interest into the surrounding areas is important. That's what it means to be genuinely engaged."

THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Riley Board *
MANAGING EDITORS
Lucy Townend *
Abigail Chang *
EDITORIAL BOARD DIRECTOR
Lily Laesch *
DIGITAL DIRECTOR
Emmanuel Tamrat *
EDITORS AT LARGE
Ideal Dowling *
Jake Gaughan
Charlie Keohane
NEWS DESK
Tony Sjodin * †
Katie Futterman *
Maya Heikkenin
Brinlea La Barge
LOCAL DESK
Becca Amen * †
Julia Pepper *
Maggie Reynolds *
OPINIONS DESK
Daleelah Saleh * †
Sarah Miller *
Tejas Srinivasan *
ARTS & CULTURE DESK
Owen Mason-Hill * †
Eliza King Freedman *
Summer Hornbostel *
Acadia Klepeis *
Olivia Mueller *
SPORTS DESK
Blaise Siefer * †
Charles Crounse
Emily Jones
Isabella Marcus
MULTIMEDIA DESK
Florence Wu †
Atticus Coates
DESIGN DIRECTOR
Olivia Kilborn
PHOTO EDITORS
Shirley Mao †
Charlie Deichman-Caswell *
VISUALS EDITORS
Sabrina Templeton * †
Pia Contreras
COMMUNICATIONS
Estelle Martin †
Jake Gilbert
Mari Nakamura
Frannie Newman
LAYOUT EDITORS
Caroline Harding *
Emily Hogan
Shamail Naseer
ONLINE EDITORS
Eric Burchill
Mihir Singh
COPY EDITORS
Leander Ruhl
Claire Shapiro *
BUSINESS MANAGER
Genny Gottdeiner

** Member of the Editorial Board*
† Senior Editor

The Campus reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks; unwarranted requests for anonymity.

More information about the paper and its submission policies can be found online at www.middleburycampus.com.

The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. The Campus welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less.

@middleburycampus

@middcampus

The Middlebury Campus

Middlebury must commit to better faculty retention

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.

For the last week, students of Visiting Professor of History Lana Povitz have been calling on the college to grant her a tenure-track position via partner hire, which has historically been granted to partners and spouses of faculty members. Povitz's partner is Arabic professor and CV Starr Fellow in International Studies Dima Ayoub.

If this offer is not granted, Povitz will likely depart Middlebury to teach at the University of Montreal, meaning Middlebury could potentially lose the courses Povitz originated, including Modern American Jewish History, History of Sexuality in the U.S. and History of U.S. Food Politics. Povitz's courses, which focus on Jewish identity, queerness and the rise and fall of radical movements, greatly diversify Middlebury's American history offerings. Her students have also spoken to her impact as a Middlebury community member and her role in supporting them beyond the classroom.

We as a board believe that this case illuminates larger institutional issues surrounding hiring practices and tenure-track offers. Countless students rallied on behalf of Povitz, and she also noted how the History Department has continuously advocated for her and her courses. In this case, however, the History Department has their own hiring priorities guided by enrollment pressures and curricular goals, so the college would have to make additional funds available for partner hire in order to hire Povitz.

As students, it's incredibly disillusioning to pay huge sums of money to a school that lets beloved professors go when they shouldn't have to. The college stated in their DEI action plan in September of 2020 their goal to "explore funding options to support partner hires and post-doctoral residencies" with a timeline of 2021-2023, under the jurisdiction of the Dean of Faculty. Additionally, about half of the five-hundred thousand dollars donated for anti-racism programming had yet to be allocated, as of October of this year. It's high time to put this strategy to action.

In order for Middlebury to better recruit faculty of color and their families to live in rural Vermont, there must be a robust, well-financed framework for partner hire in place. In many cases, faculty retention can hinge on whether their partner can be employed at the college. If the college is indeed serious about diversifying faculty, partner hire cannot remain an amorphous process in which some candidates are granted it while others are not, where faculty remain in the dark about the intricacies of the process.

Povitz's potential imminent departure is one saddening instance that points to a broader structure of difficulty and anxiety for academics whose partners are also academics. While Povitz herself is white, Ayoub is not, and Povitz's departure could impact Ayoub's presence at the college.

"If I move, it will divide [Ayoub's] energies and shift her center of gravity away from Middlebury toward Montreal, where many of our friends and family are already based," Povitz told The Campus in an interview.

While Povitz's departure has garnered significant attention, the college's inability to retain professors of color and professors who diversify the curriculum is not a novel phenomenon. For example, the college has lost several professors who are women of color in the past three years. In 2020, American Studies professor J Finley departed Middlebury and now teaches at Pomona College, and Chemistry professor Lesley-Ann Giddens left Middlebury to teach at Smith College. Others have left or are planning to leave after not receiving tenure-track offers.

Partner hire is just one means of faculty retention that Middlebury could be employing more strategically and intentionally. But this is evidently just one piece of the puzzle; Middlebury cannot continuously make statements affirming their commitment to equity and anti-racism and then pass up chances to diversify their curricula or give job security to professors of color in the form of tenure-track positions.

REFLECTING ON TWO YEARS IN

Notes from the Desk

Lucy Townend is a managing editor for The Campus and a member of the class of 2022.

Today, the publication date of this issue, marks the two-year anniversary of the day that Middlebury students were told that they were being sent home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Less than half of the current student population was present on campus during that semester, but within days, we all experienced our version of The Day It All Changed, or some sort of transition that marked the Before, During and — now, for some — the After of the pandemic.

In the past two years, we've gone through a period of both collective, mass-scale loss but also individual experiences of grief. Yes, we're "all in this together" — but we've also all encountered vastly different versions of the pandemic, from the initial quarantine to returning to school (or not) in the fall of 2020 to all of the waves and lulls of Covid-19 that have occurred since then. Some of these things may have fundamentally changed how we think about ourselves and our relation to others. For others, however, they may feel the exact same as they did in March 2020 — and both experiences are valid.

At this point, we're beginning a tentative transition into post-pandemic life. For some, that means rebounding to Before; for many of the seniors, this means reverting back to the middle of our fourth semester of college. For others — and this is where I find myself — it means navigating the return to a life that may feel familiar in some ways but also foreign in others. This is not necessarily because life is all that different than it was in March 2020, but because my relationship to this life has been altered substantially.

Not to jinx any budding romances out there, but you may have heard that it's break-up season. In a transitional period such as this one, this makes sense to me; friction occurs when people change at different paces and at different times, and this return to normal life is likely to bring some of this friction into focus, not just in romantic relationships but also in friendships, too. This friction is not insurmountable, but it does require some acknowledgment of both similar and dissimilar experiences that affect how we confront life moving forward.

I understand that this may all sound very abstract to you, and that's partially intentional. I'm still trying to figure it all out, too. I guess that my point boils down to this: sh*t happened. Some of us are still reeling from the pandemic, while others have been ready to return to normal for a while. Most of us fall somewhere in the middle.

I'm not sure when we'll stop commemorating the anniversary of that day in March. I'll admit it — as a student journalist, it's likely that I'm more fond of considering the impact of certain pivotal events in college history than others. But days like these are good reminders for all of us of what has changed — but also what hasn't.

Calling on community

Op-Ed

Sheila Camacho is a member of the class of 2025.

It goes without saying that the pandemic involuntarily forced us into a state of isolation. Our focus has shifted from a community mindset to an individual perspective. Although technology and social media have made communication easier, they've also made interpersonal social-emotional check-ins less common.

For almost two years, we've lived in this gray area of cultivating a community without physically being together. As a result, many of us have forgotten about a core value of community: commitment.

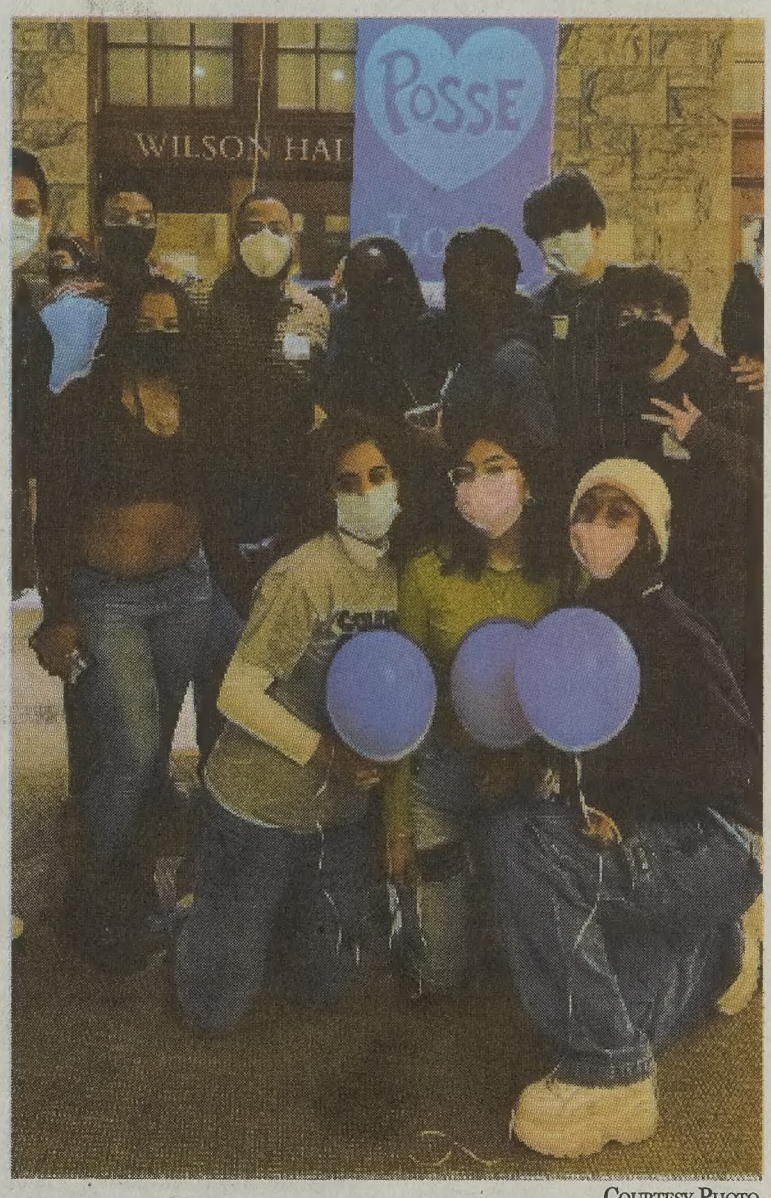
On February 26, the Posse community had our annual Posse Plus Retreat (PPR). Our main focus throughout the session was "Calling on Community." and more specifically, how to mend our community after a rift was created between us and our sense of belonging due to the pandemic. PPR is historically a weekend-long retreat that invites members of the student body, faculty and administration to engage in discussions about social, cultural and political issues on campus. This year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the retreat was condensed into one day and held in Wilson Hall.

When we think of community, we normally think of the best ways a community can support our needs, but it's not always that we ask ourselves how we can support each other. This was the overarching goal of the Posse Plus Retreat: to learn how to mend our communities and find ways to connect with each other outside of classes and peer-led events. Jesus Pedroza, our morning speaker who was in Chicago Posse 10, said that "Posse is a commitment, promising and acknowledging the responsibilities we have with one another and providing the support that is needed." This quote perfectly encapsulates the meaning of a Posse community and provokes the question: How can we expand this mindset beyond Posse?

PPR created a perfect environment for socializing beyond our natural comfort zones as we conversed vulnerably about our diverse identities and values. At the beginning of the session, I drifted toward my own Posse mates and refused to leave the boundaries of community because they make me feel safe and secure. However, I soon realized that by doing so, I wasn't challenging myself or expanding my community efforts. It wasn't until halfway throughout the day that I fully immersed myself into the experience and let myself be vulnerable in front of my peers. It was uncomfortable and awkward. I realized that I had been closing myself off emotionally throughout the pandemic, even though I thought I was becoming independent.

This experience of engaging with my peers allowed me to reflect on my values of community and participate in a healing moment by reopening myself to others. The effects of a strong community extend beyond any other support system, and it's a vital component of gaining the most of our college experience.

I talked to Samuel Medina, a sophomore from the Los Angeles Posse, about the ways his community has supported him throughout his college journey. He commented that "it's easy to feel out of place and struggle in this new environment as a BIPOC student from a large metropolitan area, but this shared experience connects us all together." He also expressed extreme gratitude for the opportunity to engage with his fellow Posse mates who share similar values and backgrounds as him, said, "I feel like I can be myself and express who I am because I know there are people who are there for me. Their drive and willingness to make a difference on campus energizes me to make a difference as well." As part of the first-year NYC Posse, I'm able to empathize with Sam's feelings. There have been countless times where I've experienced imposter syndrome whether that be because of academic or financial reasons. However, the Posse Plus Retreat reminded Samuel and I of the community we have supporting and rooting for us.



COURTESY PHOTO

New York City Posse 23 stand with Posse Mentors and Trainers after the Posse Plus Retreat.

Jesus said it best: "Posse is an opportunity. Posse is also a way of life. The community within Posse is something so beautiful where everyone is motivated to see one another succeed." I encourage you to attribute the Posse values to your own community settings and begin challenging yourselves emotionally, in order to grow and learn. This can manifest itself in different ways, whether it's inviting a peer to sit with you at Proc, going to a professor's office hours or engaging with faculty on campus. This message is especially for BIPOC and first generation students on campus. We've overcome so much to get here, but to really thrive here, we need to support one another on a higher level. The pandemic has taken so much from all of us. In order to regain authority, we need to begin mending and healing as a community.

HOME

Op-Ed

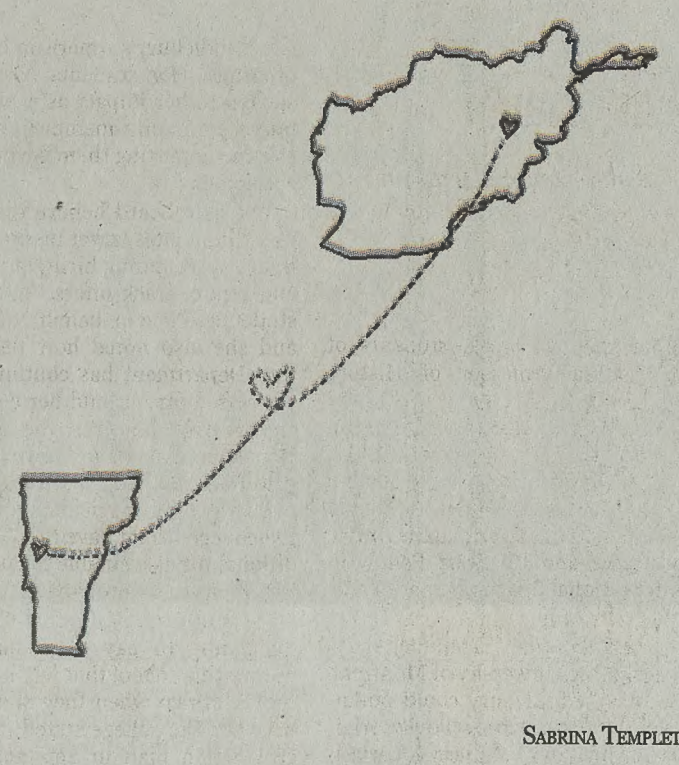
Sajia Yaqouby is a member of the class of 2025.5.

I am one of the eight new BOLD-SOLA Leadership Scholars that were evacuated from Kabul, Afghanistan, on August 17, 2022, to Qatar, then to Kigali, Rwanda. Now we are all here, at Middlebury College, ready to start our academic careers, but thoughts of home — what it is, what it means and where to find it — linger.

My friends have a hard time defining the word home. ەاکتماقا in Persian, and home in English is defined to be a place where we are permanent residents. A word that these days brings uncertainty and discomfort to many of my fellows who had to leave Afghanistan, because of the new Taliban takeover, in search of a safer shelter. While home for many is a familiar experience, it changes depending on geography, people and situation. For me, it is a feeling: where you feel loved, where you feel like you belong.

It's like the warm feeling of entering a cafe on a snowy evening and hearing familiar music in the background. While recognizing many people and understanding the language they speak, you sit and order the meal you know you will not be able to find or taste anywhere like it in the world. That is the test of home, the feeling of being connected, of belonging. On August 17, I left my home carrying only a passport and a few little belongings. A small map of Afghanistan was among them. Trembling about being surrounded by a terrorist group and the firing rifles, I touched the hand of my sixteen-year-old brother for the last time, smiled, and hurried, leaving the only place that had made me a complete individual. And after, I was shattered.

No matter where you are, no matter where you go, exile carries nothing but misery of loneliness and emptiness. In "Reflection on Exile," Edward Said says that exile is an "unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home." And he argues that "the achievements of exile are permanently undermined by the loss of something left behind forever." In search of a home, we might find a place to make a living, but an emptiness felt deep in our souls is always there longing for what was once ours.



Sabrina Templeton

When we left our little apartment — located in a beautiful corner of Polytechnic University in Kabul — to the airport, my little sister wrote, "As I write, I miss our beautiful home. I miss the tableau on the wall, the decorated candles, the clock, and all those Eid days and Yalda nights that will be forever remembered in my mind and inside the walls of the little house." For her, while home was a feeling, it was a place too, located in a defined geography, where she found safety and comfort. Many find it challenging to share a sense of connection and belonging to a place, as they do not share the same values, background and perspectives. In search of a home, many of us might find a safer place, but for many it never turns out to be simply one place.

We, the people of Afghanistan, for years have been facing an imposed war. We have been suffering at every level. In the early ages of life, growing up in Afghanistan I touched and felt deep down what it means to lose a loved one, as I lost many. I learned and watched the ache of struggle, as we suffered more. Yet, nothing was as difficult as leaving home when you find nothing to fight for and be hopeful about.

THE PERSISTENCE OF ORIENTALISM IN MIDDLEBURY ARABIC LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Op-Ed

***Madeleine Gallop** is a member of the class of 2023.5*

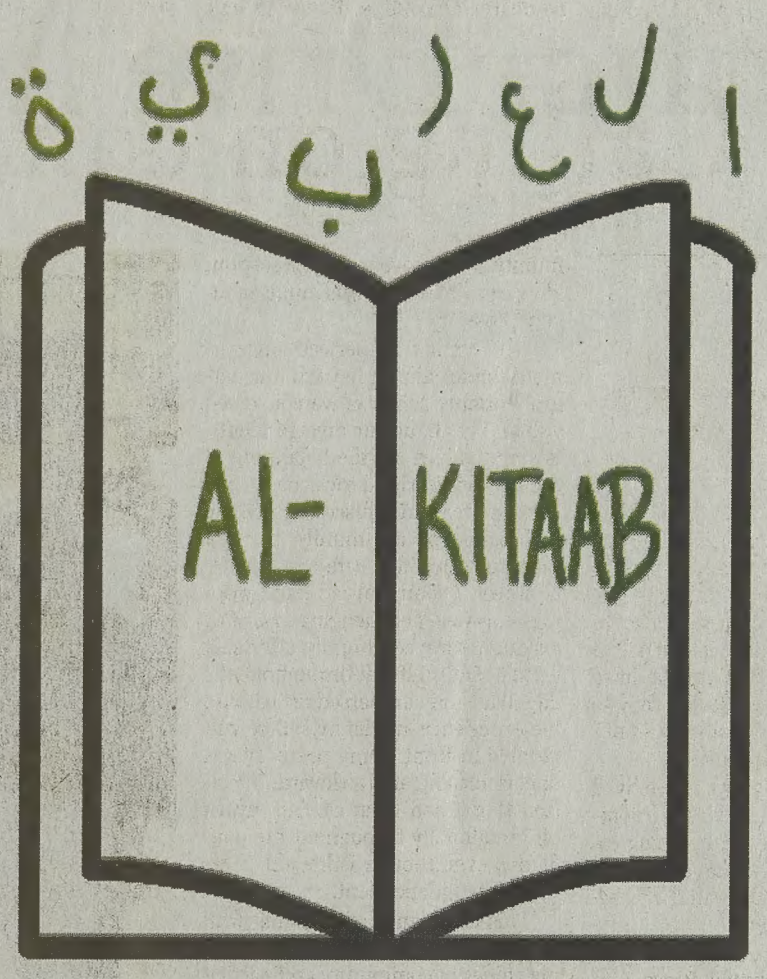
Orientalism has always been tied to Arabic and Middle Eastern studies in the Western world. While the Western study of Arabic dates to the 15th century, the language remained in the background of Western academia until the Enlightenment, which ignited interest in foreign cultures and established Arabic speakers as exotic, violent or backwards. "Orientalism" encapsulates these generalizations. It is the study of distorted western understandings and reproductions of the Arab-Islamic world; a "system of representations" that creates an Other and ensures the supremacy of the Western world. Academics eventually abandoned the term in the 1970s for more regionally-aware categorizations.

> Despite being immersed in the language for just over a month, I am still struggling to reconcile what I have learned at Middlebury with the vocabulary I need for everyday life.

But has our society truly progressed beyond Orientalism? Dr. Edward Said argues that a new form of Orientalism today stains Western discourses through constructing "a much more threatening picture of Islam." While globalization increased interconnectedness, it certainly did not foster cross-cultural acceptance. And today, Western power networks employ this "neo"-Orientalism in Western language instruction to create fear and emphasize security.

Mohammad Samiei, a professor in World Studies at the University of Tehran, argues in his article "Neo-Orientalism? The relationship between the West and Islam in our globalised world" that capitalism "tends to corrupt Western Islamic studies for its own interests." Colleges and universities receive private and government funding thus becoming hostage to the political and cultural agenda of the donor. After World War II, the U.S. government recognized Arabic as a "strategic language," and its agenda became to professionalize the discipline.

The effect is clear: since 9/11, enrollment in Arabic programs has surged by 82%; most now focus on securitization instead of on culture or identity. Mahmoud Al-Batal, who co-authored Al-Kitaab (the textbook used at Middlebury and hundreds of other universities), epitomizes this focus. In 2007, Al-Batal commented that "the tragic events of September 11, 2001 have ushered in an era of increased national attention to Arabic as a language vital to national interest and security." This vitality contributed to massive increases in government-funded Arabic departments in higher education in the early 2000s. The material presented in Al-Kitaab frames the way new language learners think about and communicate in Arabic, but the book also receives funds from a federal agency that funnels students into the government's agenda. The national Arabic curriculum now aims to transform language learners as defenders into Western security against the threatening Middle East. Sound familiar? Orientalism lives.



Daleelah Saleh

I came to Middlebury and enrolled in an introductory Arabic class, hoping that the language would become a means to immerse myself in cultures different from my own. However, it quickly became apparent that learning Arabic would be different from learning Spanish and French in high school. Our first vocabulary set included الأمم المتحدة, or "United Nations." The second had "translator," and the third had "army." The first textbook included neither colors nor days of the week — universal lessons in virtually all beginning language courses. More recently, Al-Kitaab Part II (published in 2013) included the word بيقرش, which it translates as "Oriental, Middle Eastern." While my professors went to great lengths to culturally enrich the curriculum and introduce us to real-world scenarios, after three years of Arabic, I still feel more comfortable discussing police presence at uprisings than ordering food at a restaurant. I am studying abroad in Jordan this semester, and despite being immersed in the language for just over a month, I am still struggling to reconcile what I have learned at Middlebury with the vocabulary I need for everyday life.

> You might think Orientalism was buried long ago, but these neo-Orientalist perspectives are not unique to Middlebury.

Last summer, to advance my language skills, I attended Middlebury's eight-week Summer Language School. The State Department, CIA, FBI, and military all train employees in Arabic for the cause of securitization to achieve this goal. There, I took classes with students (like myself) who hoped to learn about new cultures through learning language, as well as with students who had graduated and were on scholarships from their employers at the Departments of State, Education or Defense. The woman I sat next to every day revealed that she is an interrogator in the Army, at Middlebury on active duty. After learning about Ramadan one morning, she reflected on her utter disinterest in the topic, as it didn't matter to her job.

> While my professors went to great lengths to culturally enrich the curriculum and introduce us to real-world scenarios, after three years of Arabic, I still feel more comfortable discussing police presence at uprisings than ordering food at a restaurant.

The neo-Orientalist narrative extended beyond the student body. In the first two weeks alone, Middlebury held two separate recruiting sessions for "Careers in National Security using Foreign Language Skills." In response, students organized protest events termed "Language for Peace," aiming to resist "the weaponization of language study at Middlebury." They also distributed a petition to cease the recruitment sessions. Orientalism also seeped into the summer academic curriculum. At one point, many upper-level students walked out of the classroom after a particularly upsetting lesson that included vocab words like "suicide bomber" and "tear gas." These students felt the professor and the program catered to students there on government money and upheld an Orientalist curriculum. Learning Arabic at Middlebury is no longer solely about cultural immersion, but about creating graduates who buy into constructions of the people and cultures of the Middle East as dangerous.

You might think Orientalism was buried long ago, but these neo-Orientalist perspectives are not unique to Middlebury. Organizations of power still systemically infect all aspects of Arabic language instruction in higher education.

Actors from the London stage do more with less

By OLIVIA MUELLER, ACADIA KLEPEIS & ELIZA KING FREEDMAN
Arts & Culture Editors

COURTESY PHOTO

This past weekend, the Actors from the London Stage (AFTLS) visited Middlebury to put on a production of William Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" in Wright Memorial Theatre.

Founded over forty years ago by a group of actors including Sir Patrick Stewart, AFTLS is one of the oldest touring Shakespeare troupes. Unlike in a traditional production, the cast is composed solely of five actors, meaning that each must take on multiple roles in the same performance. The acting company takes Shakespeare plays out of their original settings, giving plain clothed actors three hours to see what they can do with a Shakespearean script and their own ideas. The actors rarely, if ever, leave the stage, resulting in an intense and constantly engaging performance for both the audience and the performers.

"Once you're on, you're on," actor Chris Donnelly said in an email interview with The Campus. "It is a more demanding exercise to be constantly shifting from one character to another — psychologically, physically and vocally."

Since the group does not have a traditional director, the actors themselves collaborate to determine staging and the direction in which they want to take the show. This directing democracy gives the troupe the ability to make creative decisions that still engage a modern audience.

The troupe has reimagined Shakespeare's work for a contemporary audience by highlighting the physical comedy and irreverence that often gets lost when reading his plays straight from the page. For instance, there were at least five contemporary songs used as transitions within the show, from the Ronettes' "Chapel of Love" to Queen's "Somebody to Love," as well as cheeky moments when actors broke the fourth wall.

Despite there being only five actors in a play with 23 roles, it was easy to differentiate between the characters and their personalities, using glasses, hats, and canes rather than formal costume changes to help distinguish the characters. The only downside of the cast size was that because Hero and her father Leonato were played by the same person, it often caused Hero to be invisible in scenes where she had no lines but clearly would have been contributing to the performance nonverbally. That being said, the performance swept the audience away — resulting in the actors returning to the stage twice to continued applause after they took their initial bows. The size of the cast and the lack of a traditional set ultimately allowed for the actors' talent and range to shine all the more brightly.

"I think our job as actors performing Shakespeare is to make sure the 500+ year-old text can still be understood and enjoyed today. When that happens, it's a magic moment," AFTLS actor Annabelle Terry said.

Watching the show even centuries after it was written, audiences will find that these ancient characters are still relatable and relevant. "Much Ado" is one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies, and, after watching it, it makes sense why. In many ways, it's the original romcom. Benedick and Beatrice's masterful verbal sparring and wordplay is incredible to watch, especially when portrayed by actors talented enough to capture the subtext and flirtation embedded within their fights.

All of the actors agree that one of the most important scenes in the show is the wedding scene, which was particularly challenging to stage with so few bodies. "Having to keep the story afloat in such a serious moment meant that we had to work really hard to keep all the characters alive. It is also important for the scene to have gravitas. It is the turning point of the play," said AFTLS actor Katherine Newman.

The range of characters and emotions that each actor has to portray makes performing the show a daunting but rewarding task. "Every character has a moment I love to portray on stage," said actor Will Donaldson when asked if he had a favorite character. Donaldson plays Claudio, Borachio, Antonio and Margaret in the production, but if forced to pick one, he would settle on Margaret.

"She is pure drag, but she still has a heart and a sensitivity that I find really endearing. She's a pure expression of all the exuberance and mischief in my heart," said Donaldson.

The actors also spent time during the week leading up to the performances workshopping with 14 Middlebury classes across seven departments. They led movement workshops with some acting classes, read drafts of student plays, and had discussions with gender studies classes.

One of the major strengths of the AFTLS is being able to make classic works like Shakespeare feel captivating and current to today's audiences. The group's emphasis on touring colleges and universities to work directly with students gives the troupe the unique ability to use Shakespeare as a launching point to engage young people with performance in all its senses. Middlebury students will find that the AFTLS approach to performance not only elevates the themes and topics touched on by Shakespeare, but also those that they tackle every day in the classroom.

Students can follow AFTLS on any and all socials to keep up to date with all future tours.

Headlines: Our new radio show

By ABIGAIL CHANG
Managing Editor

At the very end of last spring — when Riley Board '22, Lucy Townend '22 and I (The Campus' executive team) started planning for this year's Campus issues — we got really excited about an idea. The idea was creating a Campus radio show where we'd share a little about the stories from each week.

Now, ten months and fifteen issues of the paper later, we've finally brought our idea to fruition. You can listen to our new WRMC show, "Headlines," at 9 a.m. on Thursdays.

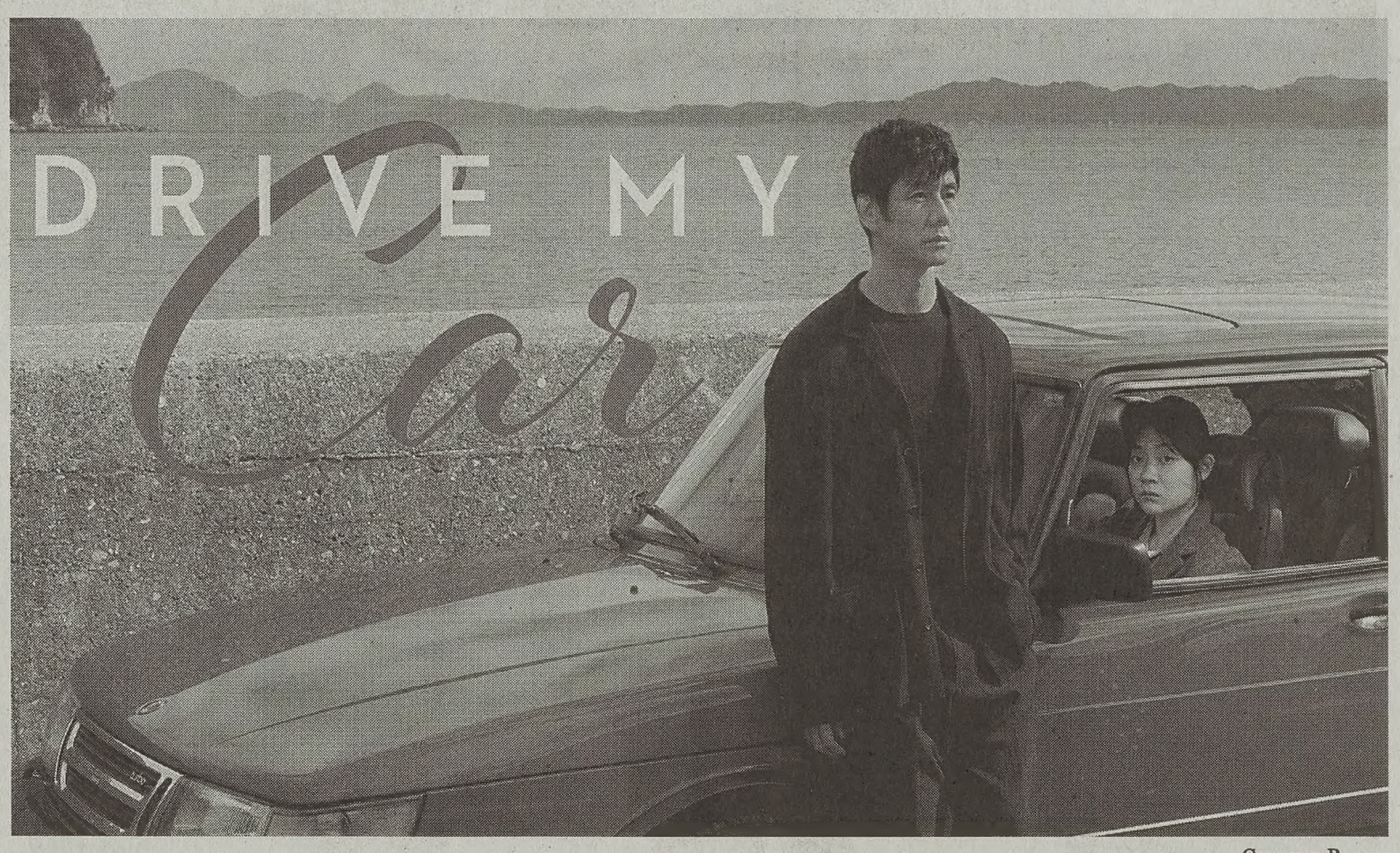
This isn't technically the first time The Campus has had a radio show. There used to be a WRMC show called "The Campus Voice," discussing the biggest articles from each issue, so, in some ways, "Headlines" is a revival of a previous format.

> So, The Campus is on the airwaves. Well... we will be next week anyway.

So, The Campus is on the airwaves. Well... we will be next week anyway. If you're looking for a new way to engage with weekly news about on- and off-campus people, places and events, you can listen to our conversations about the biggest stories each Thursday morning, right after the paper comes out.

Reel Critic: Drive My Car

By JOSHUA GLUCKSMAN
Contributing Writer



COURTESY PHOTO

The Hirschfield International Film Series' most recent feature "Drive My Car" is not unlike a long road trip. Road trips usually elicit two seemingly conflicting feelings: boredom and awe. With a runtime just shy of three hours, director Ryusuke Hamaguchi's lauded masterpiece could easily miss the mark if his audience fails to stay engaged. The second feeling takes more work. Like a road trip with changing, beautiful scenery, motifs come and go throughout the film's duration. However, the theme of multicultural understanding between the different Asian cultures represented ties the whole film together and leaves the audience with a profound sense of awe.

The film centers around actor and director Yusuke Kafuku (Hidetoshi Nishijima) and his wife Oto (Reika Kirishima), a screenwriter, who both live in Japan. When Oto dies suddenly, Yusuke cannot continue acting in the play in which he is currently cast. Two years later, he settles for a job in Hiroshima directing the same play but with a twist; he adds Korean sign language to the list of foreign languages used in the play. Throughout the second half of the film, the multilingual cast are frustrated by Yusuke's directing as he guides them through his vision with suboptimal communication.

"Drive My Car" pushes the audience's expectations of dialogue, challenging them to focus on active listening. The cast, and even the directors, cannot fully communicate with each other. Yoon-A (Park Yu-rim), a mute actress who delivers her lines using Korean Sign Language (KSL), is the key figure in this theme of listening. In one of the most heartfelt scenes, where Yusuke and Misaki (Tôko Miura) are invited to Yoon-A's home for dinner, she reveals that — while all of the other cast members are frustrated with the rehearsal process — she is greatly enjoying being able to listen and understand the other characters through their non-verbal communication.

The end of the film shows the final scene of the play, where Yoon-A's character is philosophizing the meaning of life over the shoulders of Yusuke while he sits and sheds a tear. Here, it is obvious that the two characters are deeply connected, though they do not speak the same language. They both look forward to the play's audience, and in many ways, viewers embody the role of the play's audience.

The use of subtitles is extremely important to this play, and can make or break the experience. There are no subtitles for the English, and the Japanese and Korean are demarcated with parenthesis. Some lines are not translated at all. These elements can be a bit distracting, and even take away from the message that understanding can surpass translation. It is a bit hard to watch the last scene, where the English translation of Yoon-A's character's philosophy of happiness is not particularly poetic or well-worded. This can entirely ruin an audience member's feeling of immersion in the film.

Many of the hand motions in KSL are repeated throughout the film. I, personally, got the gist of at least five important words just with context clues. It could have been interesting and more potent for the final act of the play, after three long scenes where KSL is used, to maybe even cut back some of the subtitling. This would arguably drive the message home even further, that one who truly listens does not need translation; this idea is weakened with the at-times distracting presence of said subtitles.

Another part of the movie that might take the audience out of the film was two controversial plot elements that went largely underdeveloped. The first choice was to portray adultery as morally gray. Early in the film, Yusuke sees his wife cheating on him with fellow actor Takatsuki (Toshiaki Inomata) — among other men — and seems strangely ambivalent. In an emotionally charged scene at the end of the film, he accepts the premise that Oto could have loved him fully and still have cheated on him. Although he feels empowered to express his anger at her for the first time since her death, he seems to accept this reasoning.

The second point of tension, and arguably more controversial, is with the same actor Takasuki's other moral failings. Not only did he sleep with his boss Yusuke's wife, he also had sexual relations with a minor and beat someone to death. Both of these points are glossed over at best and at worst are portrayed in a manner where the audience plausibly feels bad for him. Regarding recent films, especially with "Licorice Pizza's" 10-year age gap and the famously controversial relationship in "Call Me By Your Name", there has been outrage and downright confusion at why these taboo relationships are not only ignored in some cases, but glorified in others.

"Drive My Car" has so much to offer, and, while hard to digest in one sitting, could leave the audience either bored (and perhaps morally outraged) or utterly inspired.

THE UNSUNG HEROES OF THE SNOW BOWL

By DEVIN SANTIKARMA
Photojournalist

A gorgeous sunset peeks through the clouds as the clock nears closing. At the Snow Bowl, straggling skiers march their way to their roof-racked cars, poles over their shoulders, planning a Friday pregame or a Subway stop after their long day on the slopes. As the parking lot starts to clear out and the lift chairs hang suspended in the air, Snow Bowl staff are able to call it a day, enthusiastic for the weekend splitboard festival ahead. For some staff, though, their day on the mountain is just getting started.

Aaron Paquette is a snow groomer at the Middlebury Snow Bowl. Even though you might not see him operating the lift or working at the lodge (or at least not on duty), he and his partner are two of the most important people on the entire mountain. Without them, no one would be able to enjoy the Bowl's seventeen different trails.

Snow groomers are masters at their craft. Piloting extremely heavy and complex machinery, they carefully maneuver the iciest, steepest and most uneven terrain of the mountain to plow through moguls and snow clumps and leave behind the finest of lines in their wake, turning choppy slopes into hills of "corduroy."

As the bright golden trees of the mountain start to dim, Aaron climbs up the tank-like tread of the vehicle and gets into his equivalent of a truck caddy, something his background as a trucker has prepared him for. I follow him inside, closing the door behind me to sit in the passenger seat of this beast of a machine. Despite its outward appearance, the inside is cozy and ergonomic, with windshield wipers that can swipe every which way and a backup camera with a crystal clear display.

It's here that Aaron will spend anywhere from 8 to 12 hours to groom the entire mountain tonight. Pointing at the display with his other hand on the controller, "There's a sound that will ring once the machine notices I haven't steered in a while. That's when it's time to sip my coffee" he grins.

Within moments of climbing into the vehicle, the machine glides across the mountains layout, pushing snow in front, breaking it up in its teeth-spiked rotating tiller, and finally depositing it behind a wide, ribbed "skirt" that drags along the snow to turn the mountain into perfectly symmetrical lines, almost like a rake in a Japanese sand garden. Mountain Supervisor Ryan Mcnulty jokes to me on my first joyride in the other machine that "if you can mow a lawn, you can use a snow groomer," but it seems like magic as I watch night fall and Aaron masterfully weaving onto every square foot of the mountain.

While sitting atop this machine is enjoyable, this job is definitely not all fun. Training for snow groomers is extensive due to the high level of skill needed to operate the machines, and it can be deadly if not taken seriously. I ask the mountain supervisor about the possible dangers of operating the snow groomers, and what riders of the mountain should know about how to stay safe around them.

"A lot of people don't realize how stressful it can be as a groomer to deal with people skiing around you. We can have some pretty dangerous collisions with skiers, especially at night, and a

Continued on Page 10

Continued from Page 9

lot of mountains around here have had problems," he said. "I even tell my guys that if they're making snow on the hill, they should tell the groomers that they are there. There was actually an accident this year on Jiminy Peak where a snowmaker was hit by a groomer and died."

"We're on snow and ice and skiing can be a dangerous sport. We're trying what we can to make sure no one gets hurt," he said.

It's seven o'clock at night, three hours after the snow bowl has officially closed, and we're the only ones on the mountain at this point. We saw a few skinners who made their way down the mountain at the start of the shift, but at this point, we're surrounded by nothing but dark wood and our headlights.

"It can get a little lonely up here sometimes," Aaron says. "Being alone up here, your mind can try and play tricks on you. But the tiredness comes in waves. It's usually the drive home that's the worst," he chuckles.

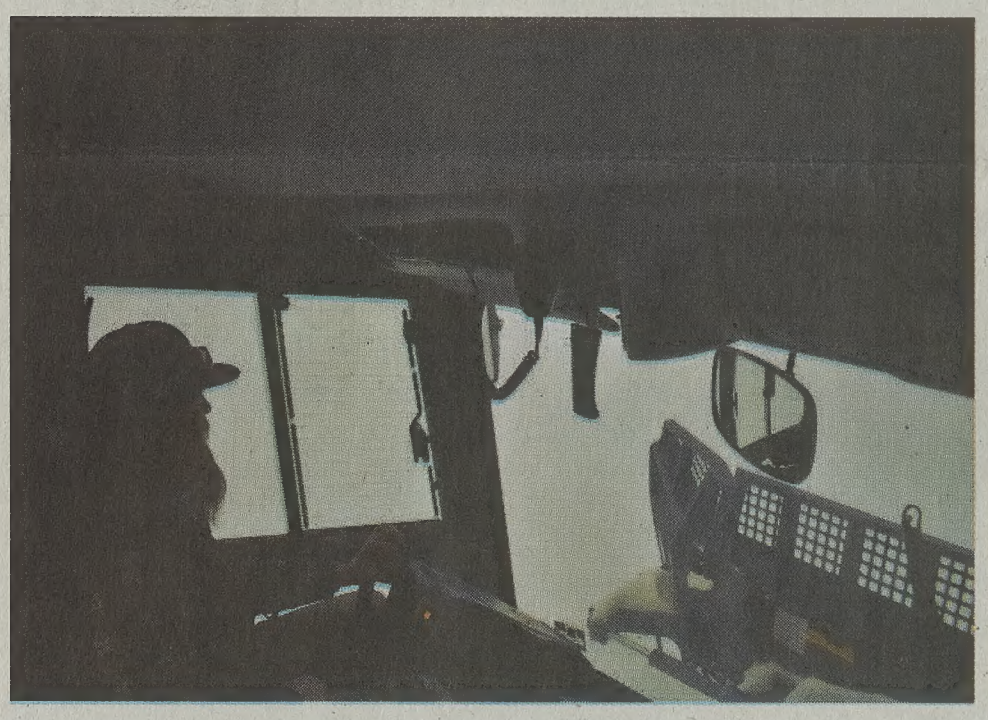
Aaron has been a snow groomer for the past four years. He was born and raised in Addison County, and grew up skiing at the Snow Bowl. He was twenty years old when he married his wife and has three children, one of whom enjoys competitive ski racing.

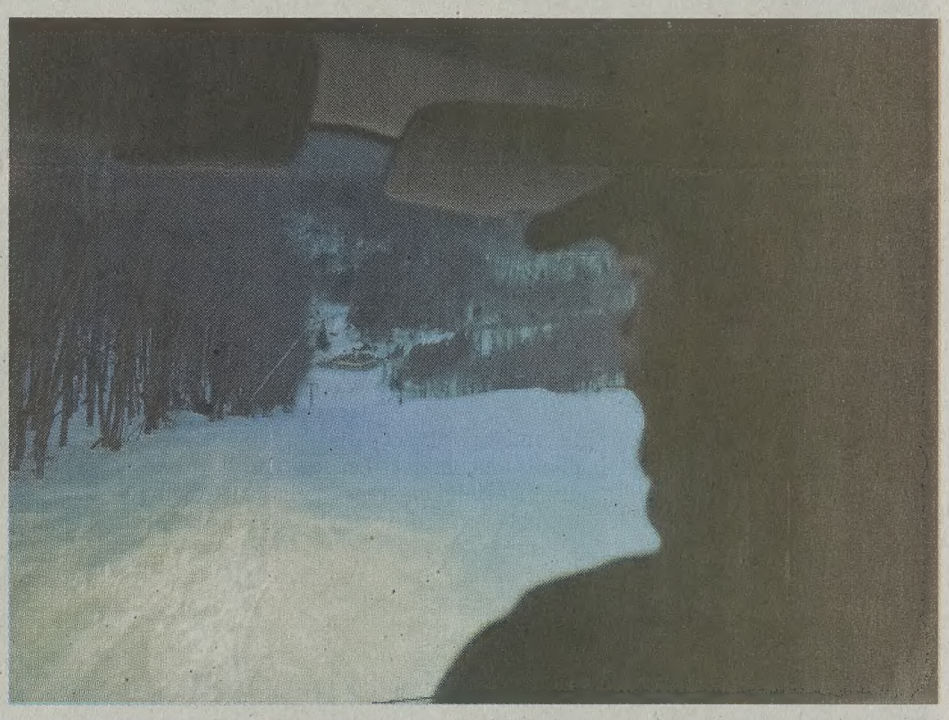
> "My dad always told me, never live your life without snow, and I took that advice."

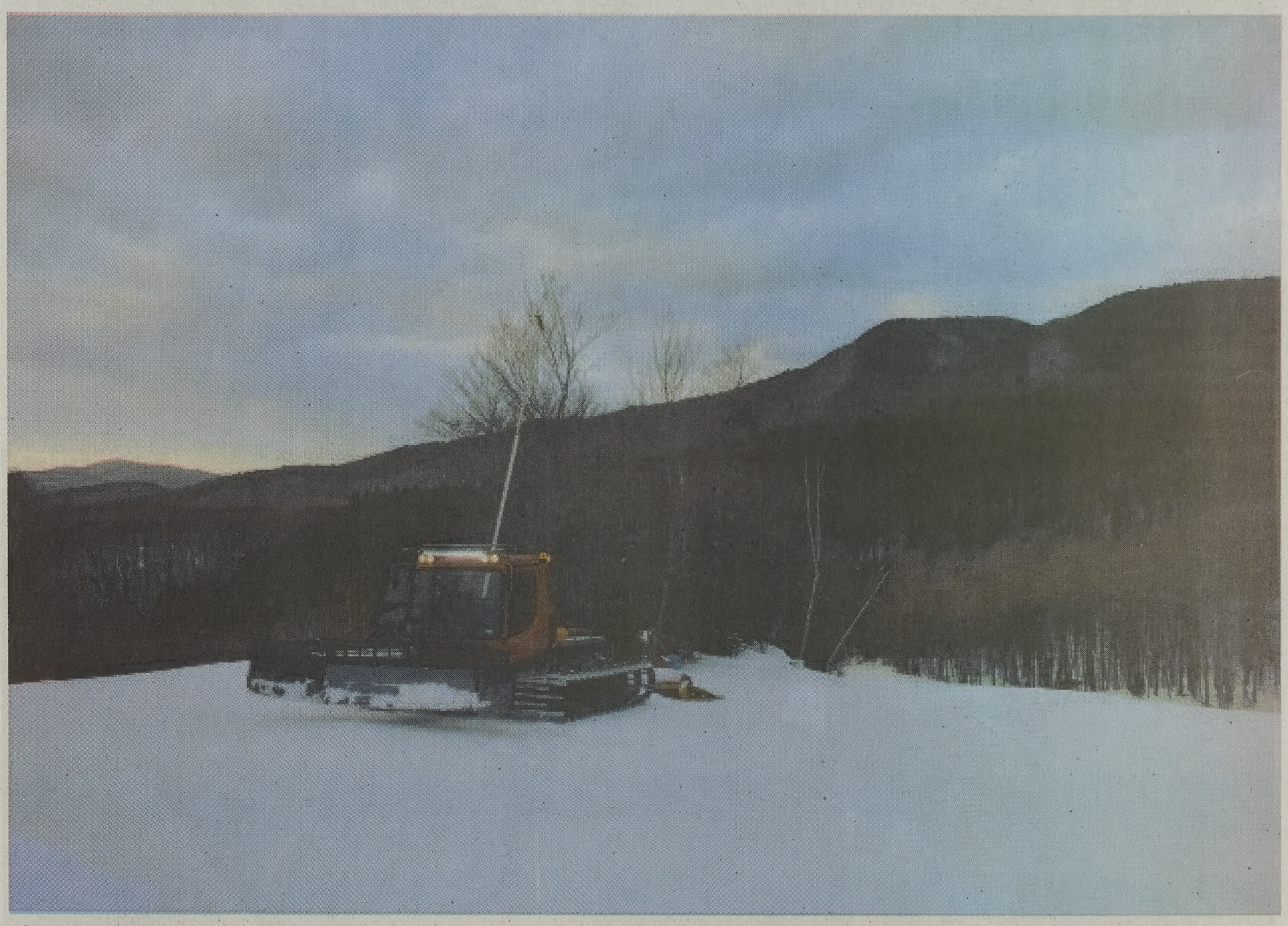
"My dad always told me, never live your life without snow, and I took that advice" he tells me as he explains how his family's favorite pastime is going skiing. As he says this, his phone pings and his dad texts him a photo of his different skis asking him about the conditions of the mountain, wondering, "Which one for tomorrow?"

As Aaron descends down the mountain's steepest pitches towards the lodge, a now bright blimp of light through the trees, I realize that conquering these hills on skis or a snowboard is nothing compared to those who work while we rest to make this mountain accessible to everyone. "I would never want anyone to change the way they enjoy this mountain for our sake," Aaron responds to my question about how to make their jobs easier.

At around 7:30pm, Aaron drops me off at the "Bully pen", the warehouse where the older machine is stored. He agrees to a portrait and then climbs up into the machine, waving me off as he starts the climb back up Allen, his vehicle's headlights surrounded by the dark mountain. Even though he'll probably leave the mountain at around one in the morning, he's excited to return the next day with his family to enjoy the fruits of his labor.







QUIDDITCH SEEKS A NEW NAME

Courtesy of Tom Green

Matthew Silverman '22 leads Middlebury's Quidditch Team against Brown University during a fall contest.

By OWEN PARK
Contributing Writer

Matthew Silverman '22 was a first-year when he received an invitation to play for his commons' Quidditch team. Growing up in Vermont, he'd heard a bit about the sport but wasn't entirely sure what to expect — maybe it would be a combination of rugby and dodgeball. After attending several practices, Silverman grew to like his teammates and the welcoming culture of the sport. Four years and countless practices later, he serves as the president and captain of the Middlebury Quidditch Club.

Though first described in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter franchise, Middlebury College is to thank for bringing the sport to life. What started out as a game between friends on Battell Beach in 2005 has evolved into a nationwide college sport with its own governing bodies — US Quidditch (USQ) and Major League Quidditch (MLQ) — and international participation.

For the vast majority of people, Quidditch is synonymous with the Harry Potter franchise. Those that have read the books or watched the movies might have, at some point in their life, fantasized about flying around on a broomstick while trying to catch the Golden Snitch to win their team 150 points and the game.

And for many, that magic died when Rowling posted transphobic statements on her Twitter account. In 2020, Rowling garnered attention for tweeting anti-trans criticism of an op-ed in Devex. The op-ed, titled "Creating a more equal post-COVID-19 for people who menstruate," discussed the struggles of those that menstruate in receiving materials during the pandemic to manage their periods.

Rowling's tweet criticized the article's title for avoiding the word "women" altogether. "'People who menstruate.' I'm sure there used to be a word for those people. Someone help me out. Wumben? Wimpund? Woomud?"

In the wake of Rowling's inflammatory tweets, both US Quidditch and Major League Quidditch have taken steps to distance themselves from the author. In a released statement, MLQ signaled that "[They] are hoping a name change can help them continue to distance themselves from the works of JK Rowling, who has increasingly come under scrutiny for her anti-trans positions in recent years."

Rowling's statement strikes at core principles of Quidditch as a gender-inclusive sport. In the International Quidditch Association's rulebook, there is a "Four Maximum Gender" rule which states that for each team, no more than four players on the field may identify as the same gender. Before every match, refs are given a list of each teams' players and their pronouns with notes on who is likely to be misgendered.

> However, for many individual Quidditch clubs, Rowling's statement only served to confirm a larger long-standing belief: the sport needs a culture change.

However, for many individual Quidditch clubs, Rowling's statement only served to confirm a larger long-standing belief: the sport needs a culture change.

Though Quidditch maintains itself as an inclusive sport to all athletic abilities, many clubs are trying to escape the shadow of the Harry Potter franchise. Renaming the sport would not only distance the sport from Rowling's anti-trans statements, but would also allow the sport to forge its own identity, clubs say.

"There's no way to entirely divorce the sport from JK Rowling," Silverman said. "However, there's been enough alterations to it that with some more rulebook changes it could become [a standalone sport]."

In recruiting new players, Silverman said that Middlebury's Quidditch Club will take advantage of Harry Potter references to draw attention, but they focus on the actual sport itself once practice begins.

Furthermore, using the name "Quidditch" also limits the sport's ability to reach new audiences. Warner Bros owns the trademark to the term, meaning that tournaments and leagues cannot be widely broadcasted without risking a lawsuit. With many still viewing the sport merely as a college pastime, establishing a professional, widely viewed standard of play would be a crucial step to legitimizing and popularizing the sport.

"If you only have students running around with PVC [pipes] between their legs, you won't be able to draw in anyone else," Silverman said.

USQ and MLQ are currently in the process of choosing a new name — many of which were submitted through an online open forum. Any new name would most likely start with 'Q' in order to keep the acronyms constant. Popular candidates include "Quadraball", "Quadball" and "Quigstrike."

Regardless of the name that's chosen, it's clear that the time has come for the sport, from governing bodies down to local clubs, to embrace a new and promising future.

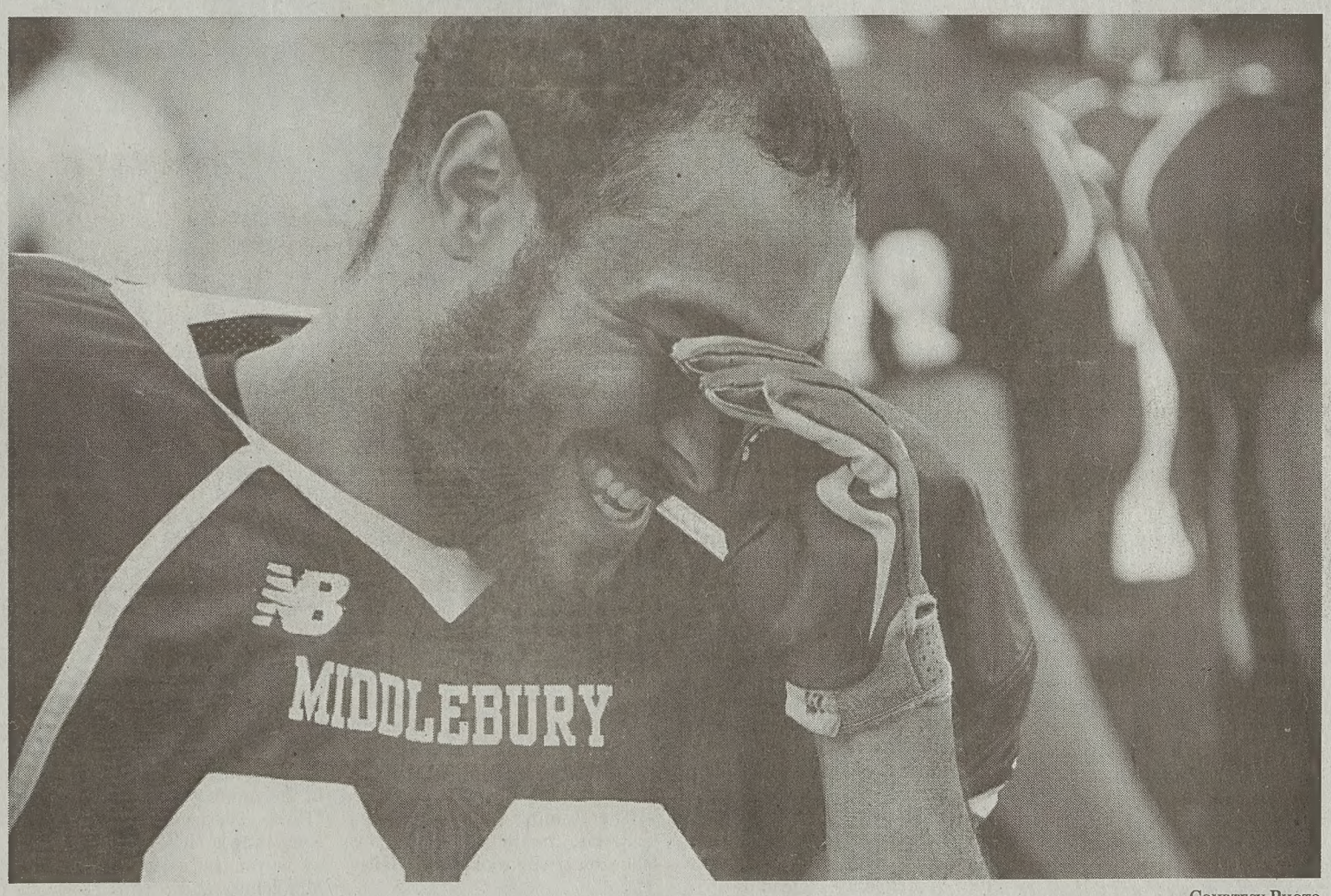
As part of a statement released by US Quidditch, Founder and Middlebury Alum Alex Benepe '09 regards the name change as a new beginning for the sport. "I'm thrilled that USQ and MLQ are moving in this direction...The sport needs its own space without limits on its growth potential and changing the name is crucial to achieving that," he said.

Siefer's Scoop Podcast: Andrew Plumley '11, Middlebury football and basketball, Senior Director of Equity and Culture at American Alliance of Museums

By BLAISE SIEFER
Senior Sports Editor

This week, Andrew Plumley '11 appears on Siefer's Scoop. Born in Burlington, Vermont, Plumley was a two-sport varsity athlete at Middlebury, playing football and basketball. As a student, Plumley studied philosophy and helped create the famous MIDD KID song and music video. Since graduating, Plumley has worked in the diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion field. He's currently the senior director of equity and culture at the American Alliance of Museums and also works with the NESCAC and MiddCORE. On this episode, Plumley discusses his biggest takeaways from his four years at Middlebury, what he enjoys about his current career and how exactly the MIDD KID song and music video came about.

SIEFER'S SCOOP PODCAST IS AVAILABLE ON SPOTIFY & APPLE MUSIC.



Courtesy Photo

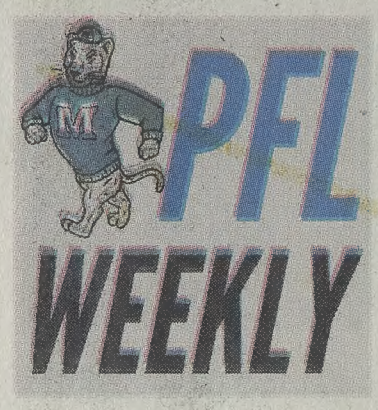
Andrew Plumley '11 played football and basketball at Middlebury.

PFL Weekly Ep. 3:

Women's hockey wins NESCAC title, women's lax dominant in season opener, alpine & nordic teams off to NCAAs

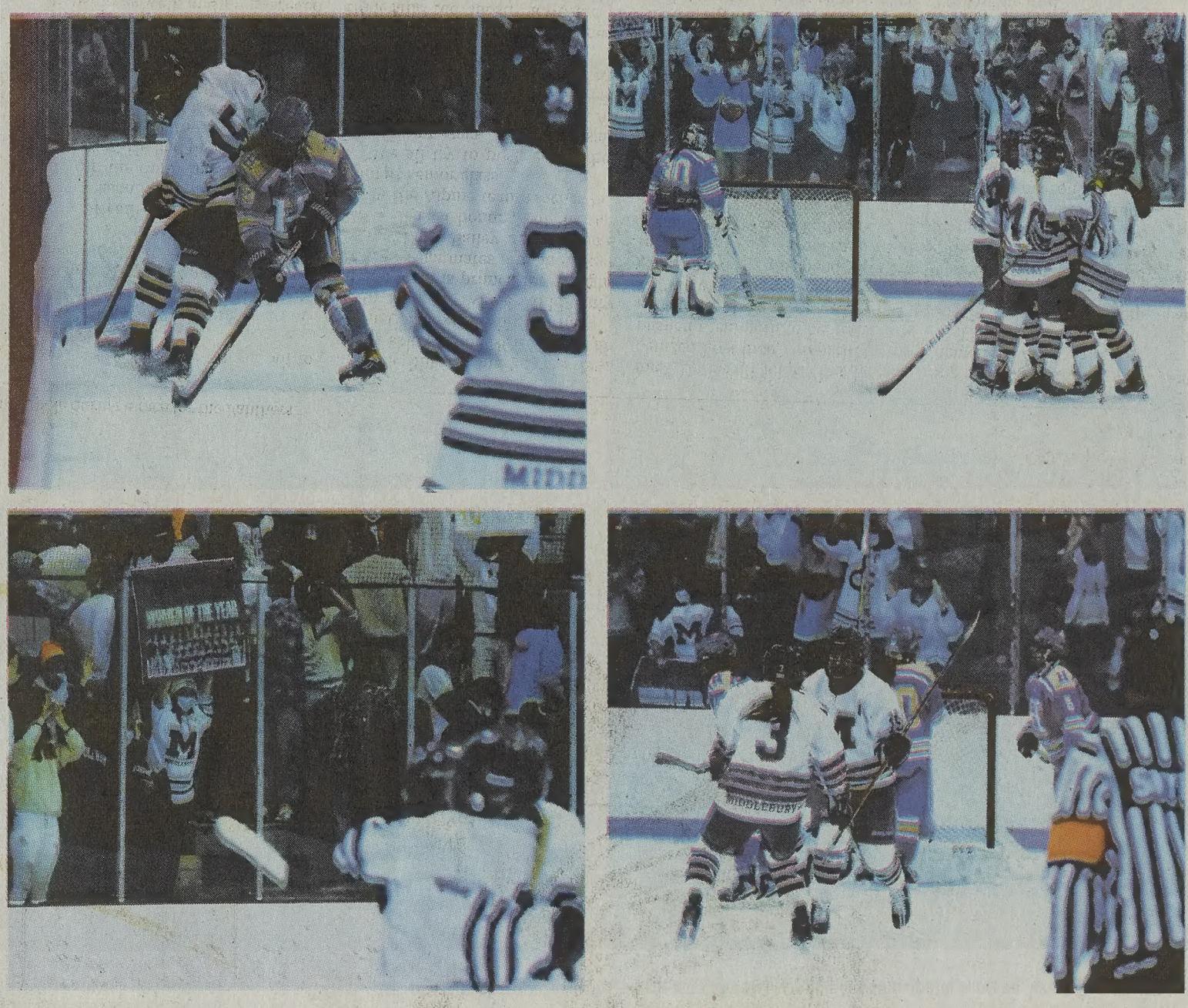
By BLAISE SIEFER, ELI DIBARI, MARCO FENGLER, CAPTAIN RUDOLPH & CAROLINE HARDING

What a weekend for women's hockey... NESCAC champions! PFL Weekly provides an in-depth feature on this accomplishment, along with a recap of women's lacrosse's dominant season opener against Bowdoin. The team also previews the alpine/nordic NCAA championships, men's lacrosse's upcoming double-header and the men's and women's tennis teams. You won't want to miss Marco's stat of the week or Blaise's trivia question, either!



The third episode of PFL Weekly was released on Tuesday, March 8.

Women's hockey claims 11th NESCAC title, punches ticket to national tournament



Charlie Deichman-Caswell/The Middlebury Campus

Scenes from the Middlebury women's hockey 3–2 victory over the Hamilton Continentals in the NESCAC semifinals, the day before defeating Amherst for the 2022 NESCAC title.

BRADSHAW UNDERHILL '25 CONTINUES FAMILY LEGACY ON MIDDLEBURY SKI TEAM

Courtesy of Flying Point

Bradshaw Underhill '25 races around a pole during a race for the Panthers.

By DAN URCHUK
Contributing Writer

Bradshaw Underhill '25 is competing in his first season on the Middlebury ski team this year, but this isn't the first time a member of the Underhill family has competed for the Panthers. His mother and grandmother both skied for Middlebury, and from a young age, Underhill has aspired to race for the Panthers too.

Those who know Underhill won't be surprised he made it to Middlebury — his goal-oriented approach has allowed him to achieve nearly everything he has set out to do this season.

"Brad brings a detailed and organized approach to training and racing scenarios on our team," Stever Bartlett, head coach of the Alpine ski team, said.

Underhill aspired to podium this season, and finished second in both the Colby and Middlebury Carnivals. He had the goal of being named Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Association (EISA) Rookie of the Year, and he recently took home that honor as well as EISA Skier of the Week. Underhill wanted to represent his team at the NCAA Championship as well, and he is seeded second out of the East Region in the Giant Slalom (GS) leading up to next week's contest.

Underhill is one of the best young skiers in the NCAA — and he doesn't plan on slowing down.

In fact, the whole Middlebury Alpine team is primed for a bright future. Teammates Justin Alkier '22 and Lucia Bailey '22 took home EISA All-East honors, but the talent of the Alpine team reaches beyond its senior class.

"We all try to push each other in different ways," Underhill said of his teammates. Two of them, Ali Nulmeyer '24 and Michel Macedo '22.5, have even competed in the Olympics.

The teammate who influences Underhill the most, however, is fellow emerging rookie Axel Bailey '25.

"I don't like to let [Axel] beat me," Underhill joked, but he recognized how their competition has pushed them both to be better skiers and teammates.

"We've become really close because obviously we spend so much time together," Underhill said about Bailey. "He'll build on what I'm good at and I'll build on what he's good at."

Even as first-years, Underhill and Bailey are an integral part of the Alpine team's success.

"Brad and Axel will play important roles this year at NCAA's and in the future years," Bartlett said. "Their experience qualifying and competing at NCAA's will be of use to the younger skiers as they enter Middlebury and learn to navigate social distractions, effective training and competition, and academic demands."

The two skiers will be competing at the NCAA Championships in Park City, Utah, this week. Of course, Underhill has his own aspirations for the competition, aiming to podium in the GS.

As for the future, Underhill has his sights on continuing his collegiate success while also emerging on the national stage.

"Outside of college racing I think it would be really sweet to be on the podium in a couple [North American Cups] and that would kind of be the next step to moving onto World Cups or back onto the [U.S.] Ski Team," he said.